

# Angelo State University • Magazine

Summer 2012 • Volume 5 • Number 2

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Center of Attention



Timing is Money • Ironclad Optimism • School Shoes



# Message

## from the President

Dear Friends:

Although the Texas Legislative season does not officially begin until 2013, public universities have already begun to plan for the most likely topics of interest to our representatives. Clearly, the concept of “efficiencies” in higher education will be at the top of their discussion list. Efficiencies are not simply about cutting expenses, but rather seeking ways to more fully utilize existing and new resources to support our core mission of educating and graduating students. This edition of the *Angelo State University Magazine* highlights several new initiatives which stretch the use of scarce resources to benefit our students.

Probably the most important effort has been our recognition by the United States Department of Education (DOE) as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The designation is critical because only HSIs may compete for the significant funding made available through DOE’s Title V program. Over the past two years, ASU has received significant DOE grants, one for retention and the other to increase student participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Although these grants result from DOE funding, their use on campus has been led by an interdisciplinary committee composed of academic and student affairs professionals. As a result, all of our students benefit from the infusion of these new funds to the campus.

Another very intriguing initiative is the evolution of a partnership between ASU and MedHab on the development of an instrument to track physiological information for use in pre- and post-operative medical assessments. While such public-private partnerships are the norm in large, research-focused universities, they rarely exist at institutions whose primary mission is teaching. While the ability for ASU students to gain real-world experience in the design, development and use of such devices is invaluable, the city of San Angelo will also have an economic benefit in the significant number of new jobs expected to be created by the new company.

Finally, our first students will graduate from the doctorate in physical therapy program, which was established in 1999 as a master’s degree program and approved for the doctoral level in 2009. As the discipline of physical therapy becomes increasingly important to so many aspects of medicine, the need for doctorally qualified individuals who practice on an equal level with physicians becomes even more critical. As ASU’s sole doctoral program, the PT degree builds on our existing remarkable strengths in science, while focusing on the emerging careers available to graduates in Texas and the rest of the nation.

Our focus remains the success of our students while on campus and after graduation. Your efforts on behalf of current and future students, whether as staff, faculty, alumni or community members, remain invaluable and most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo  
President



Joseph C. Rallo



## Angelo State University Magazine

Summer 2012

Vol. 5, No. 2

### Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System

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**Editor's Note:** In this issue, *ASU Magazine*  
examines the university’s multicultural efforts  
with an emphasis on Hispanics and their stories  
as part of the ASU tapestry.

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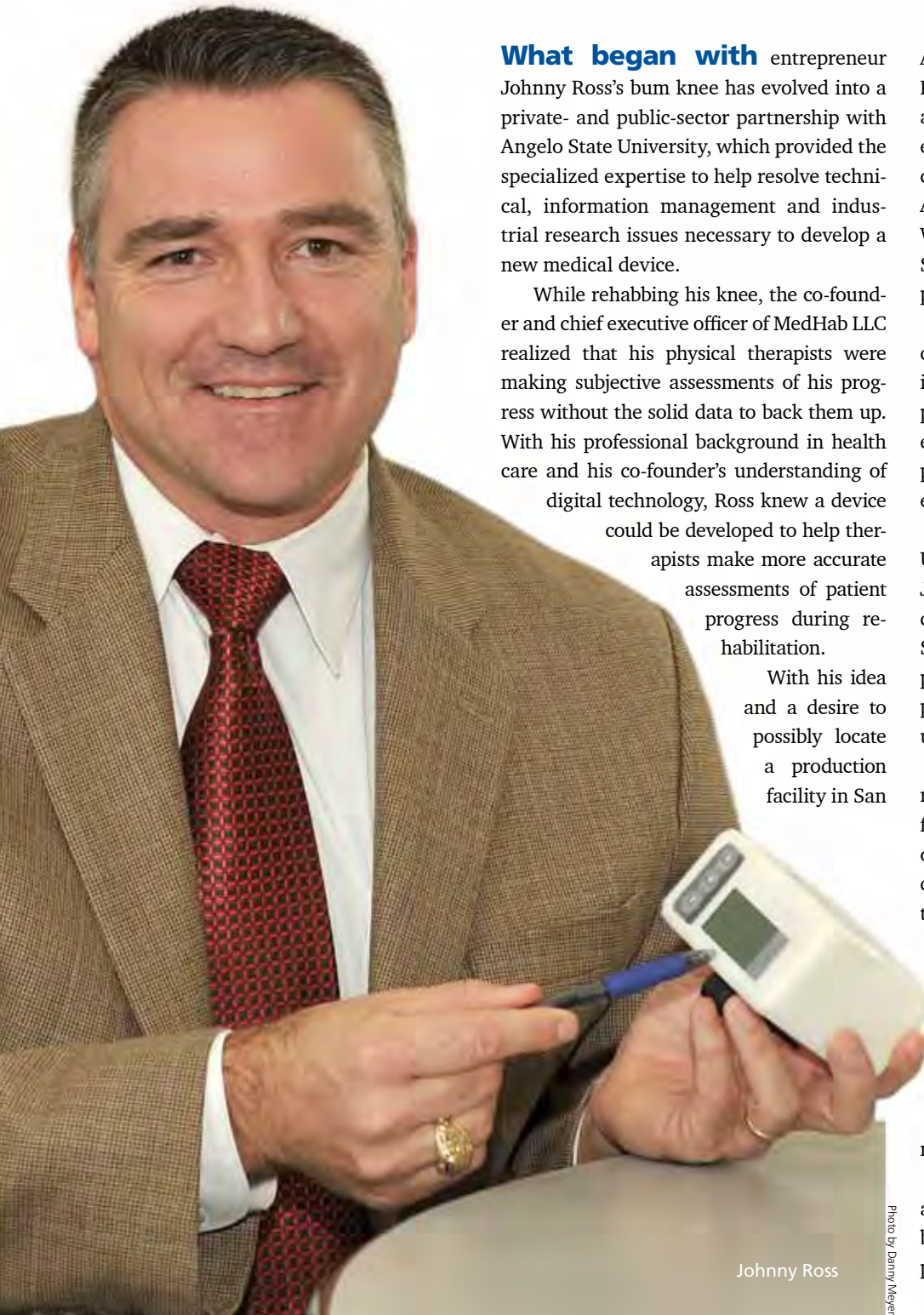
**On the Cover:** New ASU mariachi outfits modeled by music students Antonio Smith, Ashley Hagins and Chelsea Bravo reflect Hispanic growth on campus. (Photo by Danny Meyer; Backdrop courtesy of ASU Theatre.)

**Back Cover:** Shortstop Chelsey Walters of Odessa begins a double play to second baseman DeeshanaLynn Tafiti of Kalaheo, Hawaii, in a victory for the then No. 1 Rambelles softball team against St. Mary’s. (Photo by Kimberley Parker)





# Partners in Step



Johnny Ross

Photo by Danny Meyer

**What began with** entrepreneur Johnny Ross's bum knee has evolved into a private- and public-sector partnership with Angelo State University, which provided the specialized expertise to help resolve technical, information management and industrial research issues necessary to develop a new medical device.

While rehabbing his knee, the co-founder and chief executive officer of MedHab LLC realized that his physical therapists were making subjective assessments of his progress without the solid data to back them up. With his professional background in health care and his co-founder's understanding of digital technology, Ross knew a device could be developed to help therapists make more accurate assessments of patient progress during rehabilitation.

With his idea and a desire to possibly locate a production facility in San

Angelo, Ross turned to ASU's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for local assistance, which ultimately included ASU expertise from five departments. With key contributions in software development from ASU's computer science program, the Fort Worth-based company is close to producing StepRite, a monitoring device that has four patents pending and a fifth proposed.

Additionally, the San Angelo City Council earlier this year approved a business incentive package for MedHab to locate its production facility in San Angelo, further expanding the private- and public-sector partnership into an opportunity for local economic growth.

"The relationship between Angelo State University and MedHab," said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, "has proven to be a beneficial one for all involved, including the city of San Angelo. For MedHab, ASU was able to provide key support to build upon the company's expertise and help it move from product development toward production.

"For Angelo State," Rallo continued, "the relationship provides opportunities for our faculty to utilize their expertise and involve our students in real-world experience. Additionally, MedHab plans to employ some of the students working on various aspects of development and ultimately employ other students who in the past might have left for other job markets or opportunities."

"In the long run," Rallo said, "this private- and public-sector partnership will benefit San Angelo and the Concho Valley with a new firm that will employ dozens, if not more, from this area in production."

The San Angelo City Council approved a total incentive package, as recommended by the City of San Angelo Development Corporation, of up to \$3.2 million over seven

years. Ross expects MedHab will ultimately employ 150-220 employees in San Angelo when the facility is fully operational.

Ross said, "The importance of ASU to our development cannot be stated enough. MedHab's chief technology officer and I started this process at a meeting in 2009 with President Rallo and David Erickson of the SBDC. Both shared our vision and immediately offered their support. Moving forward, I anticipate a very long relationship with ASU to help develop new releases of our first product as well as assist in developing new products."

A San Angelo native and 15-year employee with medical supplier Johnson & Johnson, Ross had led an active lifestyle that ultimately wore out one of his knees, requiring reconstructive surgery to regrow the deteriorated cartilage that caused the problem. After surgery, the rehabilitation was long, painful and frustrating, causing him to think there had to be a better way to do pre-operative assessments and to measure rehabilitation progress, particularly with all the electronic technology that was available.

Ross turned to Tim Sanghera, an electrical engineer and computer scientist, with the idea of developing a monitor that could help measure weight-bearing loads, strength, range of motion and other indicators for treating leg injuries. Sanghera said such a device could be engineered, and they developed a "breadboard" prototype necessary in 2008 to apply for a patent, which was granted last year. They subsequently applied for five patents through MedHab, which Sanghera serves as co-founder and chief technology officer.

While Ross had the idea plus the medical sales background and Sanghera had the technical expertise, they still needed help in

fine tuning a business plan as they moved toward production of the medical device. Though MedHab is headquartered in Fort Worth, Ross wanted to locate a production facility in San Angelo, where he had grown up and earned a Master of Public Administration from ASU in 1989 after earning his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University.

Consequently, Ross sought out Erickson and his SBDC staff for help with the business plan and a financial model that included investors and mezzanine financing before moving to traditional financing. Additionally, Erickson and SBDC Assistant Director Cindy Hartin opened doors to other ASU expertise, including computer science faculty member Dr. Tim Roden, who is working with several senior computer science students to develop some of the software necessary to operate the monitoring device.

ASU computer science experts are developing all of the custom external software necessary to analyze and display the data collected by the device's resident software. The ASU software will provide a cloud-based server, web-based dashboards for both patients and doctors/therapists and data transmission from the device to the server. The multiple client versions will include Windows, Android and iPhone platforms, Roden said.

The MedHab device is a miniaturized, pressure-sensing instrument that provides dashboard screens for 3-D tracking of physiological information that orthopedists can use for pre- and post-operative assessments. Physical therapists can use the device to customize treatments and monitor rehabilitation progress. Through real-time wireless communication, health professionals can check on patient status at any time without requir-

ing a clinic visit. Further, the data is secured through a user-interface website that meets all federal medical privacy requirements.

The MedHab team also worked with Dr. Scott Hasson, ASU professor of physical therapy and member of the MedHab advisory board, to develop appropriate rehabilitation protocols for exercises and their measurements.

Then, Dr. Kraig L. Schell became involved for his industrial-organizational psychology program to develop outreach strategies to demonstrate to businesses how the device could be used in their safety programs, particularly for employees who do repetitive manual tasks. Additionally, MedHab is working with Dr. Richard Lawrence, a management information systems faculty member, on developing management protocols for the operational plant planned for San Angelo.

"I have been afforded the opportunity to build incredible relationships here at ASU," Ross said, "and I see these relationships continuing for a long time. MedHab plans to work with ASU personnel to assist with future developments to StepRite, our first product, as well as our lumbar back product currently in the patent process. As other opportunities arise, I am certain ASU will be a big part of development."

If everything goes according to plan, MedHab will launch its U.S. sales by year's end, pending FDA approval. Additionally, MedHab plans to market the device in Australia, England, Germany, Italy, France and Spain, potentially opening up additional opportunities for ASU participation in adapting software to those languages.

"MedHab's relationship with ASU is nothing less than spectacular, and I expect it to continue to grow," Ross said. ■



# Artsy Startsy

**If art is truly** in the eye of the beholder, the Angelo State family will have a lot to behold during the next 18 months as three pieces of installation art make their appearance on campus.

The artworks will mark ASU's start in implementing a Texas Tech University System (TTUS) policy that allocates a percentage of the cost of all major construction and renovation projects to public art.

"Evolving Helix," a 20-foot tall stainless steel sculpture combining the simplicity of a ram's horn with the complexity of the DNA helix, will be installed in the pedestrian circle on the University Mall just south of the new Plaza Verde residence hall and the Pavilion. The artist is Roger White Stoller of San Jose, Calif.

"Kinesis," an undulating red ribbon of steel symbolizing movement through its arching loops and swirls, will be positioned between walkways at the northwest corner of the Center for Human Performance's new student recreation addition. The artist is Joaquin Palencia of the Philippines.

A mosaic artwork representing the heritage of ASU has been selected for installation on the low concrete wall bordering the ramp at the main entrance of the Porter Henderson Library on the University Mall. Julie Richey Mosaics of Irving will conduct

on-campus focus groups to determine the final design. The piece is scheduled for completion next spring.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, "This installation art will bring a new dynamism to campus and provide places for thought, reflection and even whimsy for members of the Angelo State family as well as for visitors, who will now have new reasons to make ASU a destination."

TTUS policy directs 1 percent of the budgets for new construction and .5 percent of the budgets of renovation projects to public artworks associated with the new or renovated facilities.

"Implementing this policy will enhance the aesthetics and ambiance of the campus in the future," Rallo said.

The "Evolving Helix" will be ready for installation in late 2013 and is budgeted at \$375,000. It was chosen from 25 different artist proposals. "Kinesis" will be installed toward the end of 2012 and is allocated a \$60,000 budget. It was selected from 17 proposals from different artists. The mosaic is budgeted at \$43,000 and was selected from six proposals.

A local advisory committee reviewed the various proposals and made recommendations to the Angelo State University representatives – Barbara Rallo of San Angelo and Donna Bowen of Robert Lee – on the TTUS selection committee for final approval.

San Angelo community members of the advisory committee are Brenda Gunter, K. Duane Hamblin, Matt Lewis, Sue Rainey, Julie Raymond and Anne Shahan. Angelo State representatives are Tom Bankston, Maurice Fortin, Connie Frazier, Randy Hall, Jessica Manning, Peggy Niño, Bradley C. Petty and Ruben Sandoval. ASU student Jessica Kindrick of San Angelo also serves on the advisory committee. ■



*Kinesis* by Joaquin Palencia



*Evolving Helix*  
by Roger White Stoller



# First of the First

by Tom Nurre

**During the** late morning of May 12, Brent Ashford was scheduled to make Angelo State University history.

When his name was called during the spring commencement ceremony, Ashford – by luck of the alphabet – became the first student to receive an ASU doctorate. He was the first of 19 graduates in ASU’s physical therapy program to receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy, or D.P.T.

“I am really excited to be part of ASU’s first doctoral graduating class,” Ashford said. “I’ve had some great experiences and learned from some really outstanding faculty here. I hope this is only the first of many doctoral programs for ASU, and I hope that in some small way my classmates and I can bring more notability to the school and the program.”

Born and raised in Austin, Ashford earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise and sports science from Texas State University in 2008. Though he was also accepted to physical therapy programs at universities in New York and California, he chose ASU after researching its PT program online and visiting the campus.

“I chose to attend ASU because of the lower cost and because I wanted to stay in Texas,” Ashford said. “When I came to visit the campus and interview, I liked the smaller class sizes and the clinical integration with local health care partners.”

Ashford utilized that partnership for his acute care clinical rotation at Shannon Medical Center. Then, as required by the PT curriculum, he headed out of town for subsequent clinicals. He completed his orthopedic rotation at Rocky Mountain Therapy Services in Grantsville, Utah, where he was able to stay with his wife’s family, and finished up with his neuromuscular rotation at Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation in Abilene.

The most memorable clinical experience for Ashford came at Shannon and involved another ASU student, Rambelles basketball player Leah Lemaire, who had been seriously hurt in a car accident that left her with a dislocated right elbow, a pelvis fractured in two places and an injured diaphragm.

“She was unable to move much because of pain, medication and having several tubes and IVs,” Ashford said. “She was not allowed to put weight on her left leg at all because of the injury to her pelvis, so she could only use her right leg when getting around. I was able to help her learn how to work a wheelchair, and I worked with her as she took her first steps. It was a very difficult recovery for her.”

“I later found out that she has returned to classes at ASU and is back playing as a starter for the basketball team,” he continued. “Her physical and mental toughness was an inspiration for me, and it was a great experience to be able to work with her during my first clinical rotation and then be able to see her return to school, sports and her normal life.”

In his own normal life outside of classes and clinicals, Ashford has also been active in ASU intramurals with his PT classmates. He is raising two daughters, 9-year-old Bridget and 5-year-old Tess, with his wife, Regan, who also graduated from ASU on May 12 with a bachelor’s degree in communication. Combine that with ASU’s first doctoral diploma in Ashford’s hands, and the future is looking bright for all of them.



Brent Ashford performs a mobilization procedure in lab setting.

“I feel like my education has really prepared me and given me the confidence and skills I need to be successful as a physical therapist,” Ashford said. “There is quite a lot of need for therapists everywhere, and the PT program here at ASU has been very helpful in preparing us to take the licensing exam and market ourselves. I hope to find a job in the Austin area working in an outpatient orthopedic setting, but I am open to other options and I will look for the best opportunity for my future as a physical therapist and for my family.” ■



## Korean Ties



Presidents Woo-Hee Park, Joseph C. Rallo ink 1+3 pact.

Photo by Won-Jae Lee

**Angelo State** and Sejong University have initiated a One-Plus-Three (1+3) program that allows Sejong students to spend a year on their campus in Seoul, South Korea, and then come to ASU for the final three years of their undergraduate education.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo and Sejong President Woo-Hee Park signed the agreement in Seoul in November. Under the agreement, Sejong students will take a year of courses taught in English by Sejong faculty, who will serve as ASU adjunct faculty.

After successfully completing their first year at Sejong, the students will transfer to ASU for the final three years of undergraduate work. The first group of Sejong 1+3 students will arrive on campus for the start of the 2013 spring semester.

While taking ASU courses on the Sejong University campus, students will pay Sejong tuition rates. Once the students transfer to Angelo State, they will pay out-of-state tuition rates unless they qualify for competitive scholarship packages.

“We are delighted to initiate this program with Sejong University,” Rallo said.

“Our agreement builds upon many long-standing ties between our nation and the Republic of Korea. The new program will further enhance ASU’s international studies program by providing an ongoing cohort of Korean students at Angelo State.”

“Not only will our Korean guests get an exceptional ASU education,” Rallo said, “but our students will benefit from their interactions with these students, who come from a nation that has been one of our staunchest allies in Asia and today is the United States’ seventh-largest trading partner.”

Dr. Won-Jae Lee, a native of South Korea and an ASU associate professor of criminal justice, and Dr. Sharynn Tomlin, the director of ASU’s Center for International Studies, played key roles in developing and finalizing the 1+3 program.

Sejong University is a private university founded in 1940 and currently enrolling some 13,000 students. The university has nine colleges and nine graduate schools with academic strengths in international business, hotel management and animation. ■



# Capital Success

**At a time** when finances are tight everywhere, Angelo State University alumni and friends came through in a big way by helping the university reach its \$25 million capital campaign goal more than a year ahead of schedule.

In celebrating the achievement of ASU's first capital campaign, ASU President Joseph C. Rallo and Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance announced a challenge goal of an additional \$10 million by the time the effort ends in 2013. The announcement came at the January "Boldly Blue" dinner celebrating the campaign for ASU.

"A lot of people have stepped up because Angelo State really is their university," Dr. Rallo said. "We value their participation in fundraising, and as we move forward with our challenge goal we will be enhancing the opportunities we provide our students."

Dr. Jason Penry, ASU's vice president for development and alumni relations, has managed the first capital campaign



Kent Hance

since ASU was created and worked with donors from all walks of life and all income ranges. The results have been both satisfying because of the ultimate impact on students and their education and gratifying because of the willingness of so many to participate.

"We are humbled," Penry said, "to have so many alumni and friends partner with Angelo State to ensure students' access to a quality education. We are filled with gratitude."

The capital campaign is scheduled to conclude next year. Penry said he is optimistic about achieving the \$35 million challenge goal because of how accepting everyone has been of the ASU effort from the beginning.

"We have devoted alumni and a growing number of friends who may not have attended ASU, but who see the value of our mission and are willing to help us fulfill that mission, both today and tomorrow," Penry said. ■

# Chasing the Red Rubber Ball

by Becky Brackin

**Since childhood**, a red rubber ball has remained Kevin Carroll's metaphor for finding and pursuing his passion – the power of play.

A bounce of the ball led Carroll originally to Angelo State University, where he graduated in 1989, and back again in January to speak at ASU's "Boldly Blue" dinner, celebrating the university's success in reaching a \$25 million capital campaign goal ahead of schedule.

His Boldly Blue remarks and his activities while in San Angelo were so engaging that Carroll was invited back to address graduates at the university's spring commencement. It was quite an accomplishment for a man who as a boy was basically written off by social workers.

Then one day, that boy discovered an unclaimed red rubber ball on a greater Philadelphia playground and made it his friend. He started playing with the ball, making up a game and, to his surprise, beginning to attract an audience of kids, who invited him to play with them from then on.

Carroll realized the art of play was a fantastic way of connecting with others. The power of the red rubber ball would ultimately lead to a successful career as an author, public speaker and agent for change, or "Katalyst," a job title of his own creation.

But success was a long way in his future when he first arrived in San Angelo as a young father and Air Force enlistee seeking to become an athletic trainer.

"The Goodfellow Air Force Base community, ASU and this entire community encouraged, em-

powered and uplifted me," he said. "It was a significant point in my life."

Carroll credits Randy Matthews, ASU's head athletic trainer at the time, and Paul Ramsey, his supervisor at Goodfellow AFB, with making one of his goals – attaining a college degree and becoming an athletic trainer – possible while he was teaching classes at Goodfellow from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. each night and raising two elementary-aged sons.

Matthews explained the ASU schedule meant early morning classes followed by training room hours each afternoon. He asked Carroll, "When are you going to sleep?"

"You let me worry about that," Carroll responded.

Ramsey said, "I just got out of his way. I knew he was special and he was going somewhere with his life."

When Carroll returned to San Angelo in January, he spoke to groups at the Stephens Central Library, Wall High School and the Central Freshman Campus as a way of thanking the community for its help early in his career.

He also stopped by the San Angelo Soccer Association (SASA) to donate some 300 soccer balls on behalf of his son, Keith, who played on SASA teams as a boy, then went on to play college soccer and become a model and actor.

Gratitude is as big a part of Carroll's life today as that red rubber ball was in his youth, and he has a bounce in his step, but "bouncing" once represented a darker time in his life.

His early years with his two brothers were characterized by bouncing from one place to another as the three boys were abandoned by both parents by the time Carroll was 6. The low point came when the boys found themselves some 200 miles

away from their home with no one to claim them. Fortunately, loving grandparents stepped in, arranged a bus trip to Philadelphia and gave them the stability they desperately needed.

Their attention carried Carroll through high school and high school sports. Then Carroll began a 10-year Air Force career, ultimately earning his bachelor's degree from ASU and his master's degree from St. Joseph's University. He lived his goal of becoming an athletic trainer at the high school and collegiate levels, then served as trainer for his hometown Philadelphia 76ers. He even worked as translator for the Yugoslavian Olympic basketball team in 1996.

A television interview while he was involved in the Olympics earned Carroll the attention of Nike. He was invited to customize his own job as "Katalyst," or creative change agent, for the sports gear giant.

After seven years at Nike, Carroll left to start Kevin Carroll Katalyst/LLC. Today he travels the world speaking, writing books and advocating for social change.

Because the ball might have bounced in another direction at any time, Carroll realizes he could have landed elsewhere, so he takes every opportunity to give thanks and to challenge his audiences, including everyone from students to international dignitaries, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to somehow cultivate the art of play.

"Any 'zig' rather than 'zag' in my journey, and I'm not here talking to you today," he said. "Life is about the journey. You must surrender to the journey."

His global journey has carried Carroll through abandonment, rescue, discovery, pursuit, defiance, triumph and inspiration, all because of a red rubber ball abandoned on a Philadelphia playground. ■



Kevin Carroll

## Spring High

For the third consecutive year, ASU has established a spring semester enrollment record with 6,379 students enrolled as of the 20<sup>th</sup> class day, the date used for official enrollment by institutions in the Texas Tech University System.

The 2012 overall spring enrollment was up 188 students over the 6,191 students who enrolled for the 2011 spring semester, an increase of 3.03 percent. Undergraduate enrollment stood at 5,538 for the current semester, a 1.1 percent increase over the 5,480 undergraduates enrolled in the spring of 2011.

Graduate enrollment set an all-time record for the sixth long semester in a row with 841 students, 24 more than the previous high of 817 recorded just last fall. Graduate enrollment was up 18.2 percent over the 2011 spring enrollment of 711.

Comparisons by classification of the spring 2012 and 2011 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 1,215, 1,281, -5.15 percent; sophomore, 1,391, 1,418, -1.90 percent; junior, 1,250, 1,186, 5.39 percent; senior, 1,547, 1,473, 5.02 percent; unclassified, 135, 122, 10.6 percent; and graduate, 841, 711, 18.28 percent; and total, 6,379, 6,191, 3.03 percent.

Total graduate and undergraduate semester credit hours rose 2.62 percent from 75,761 for spring of 2011 to 77,746 for this spring.

## Ongoing Perfection

For the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year, ASU students have maintained a 100 percent passing rate on the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics.

Seven ASU students took the TExES in February, and their average score of 277.3 out of 300 is the highest average ever posted by an ASU class. It is also well above last year's state average score of 226.7. The perfect passing rate streak began in 1998 and since then, all 150 of the ASU students who have taken the exam after completing the mathematics program have passed.

Passing students keeping the streak alive this year were Ben Ellery, Tyler Gueldner, Brett McIntyre, Sarah McKenzie, Alicia Powell, Sheryl Stultz and Matt Tubbs.

## Handball National Title

ASU's Handball Club captured the Division 2 team national championship and two individual national titles at the 60<sup>th</sup> USHA National Collegiate Championship Tournament at Missouri State University in February.

The ASU club amassed 2,179 points to win the division, well ahead of the runner-up Southwestern University team that finished with 896 points. Thirty-eight teams participated.

ASU's Tara Niemann won the women's Division 2, Class "A" individual national champion-

ship, going undefeated in seven matches, and Morgan Solsberry won the men's Division 3, Class "B" individual national title.

## Library Acclaim

The newly renovated Porter Henderson Library at Angelo State University was recognized this past spring in the *American Libraries* magazine 2012 Library Design Showcase for outstanding service flexibility in design.

Service flexibility, one of 12 categories evaluated by the magazine each year in library design, recognizes adaptability to service population shifts, technology advances and new service needs. The ASU facility was one of 13 libraries in the U.S. and Canada identified as having "built-in flexibility to adapt to what their patrons require."

The magazine wrote, "The renovation of the Porter Henderson Library created a number of niches throughout the building, each housing one to six students, as well as areas with movable furniture that allow users to create meeting spaces and reconfigure library zones. Classroom space provides computer connectivity for 32 students, but can also be modified for speakers, lectures, or small study groups."

The renovation opened a 28,000-square-foot Learning Commons on the first floor of the library in January of 2011. Project architect was SHW Group, LLC, of Austin.

## Stage Right

With a scheduled replacement of the theatre rigging this summer, the University Auditorium is set to be back in full operation by the time ASU classes open in the fall.

The project will replace the entire rigging system, including all lines/ropes, pulleys, hoists, counterweights, catwalks, curtains and other components necessary for a fully functional proscenium stage. The total project cost is estimated at \$450,000, which is being funded through an allocation of the university's Higher Education Assistance Funds (HEAF).

Once the work is completed, the auditorium will resume its normal role in university life as a venue for musical theatre, drama productions, recitals, award ceremonies and other activities.

Due to the outdated rigging system and safety concerns, the University Auditorium was taken offline in 2010, except for ceremonies which could be conducted in front of the curtains.

The University Auditorium was completed in 1947 when the institution moved from downtown to the current location. The bulk of the existing rigging system was part of the original construction of the facility, though portions were updated in 1974.

## Cancer Prevention

Angelo State University has been awarded an approximately \$1.12 million grant from

the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to fund a three-year project to provide breast cancer detection and prevention services to residents of the Concho Valley.

The project, "Access to Breast Care for West Texas – Concho Valley," is overseen by Dr. Linda Ross, executive director of ASU's Center for Community Wellness, Engagement and Development, and Dr. Leslie Mayrand, dean of ASU's College of Health and Human Services. The project will be coordinated through ASU's regional office of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, which is also directed by Ross.

The grant will provide funding for mammograms and other diagnostic tests aimed at breast cancer detection for uninsured and underinsured women in Public Health Region 9, beginning with the Concho Valley. ASU will partner with San Angelo Community Medical Center, Shannon Health System, Heart of Texas Memorial Hospital in Brady and Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital in Sonora on the project.

## Health Foundation Grant

ASU's College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) has received a \$139,786 grant from the San Angelo Health Foundation (SAHF) to enhance the learning environment and research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate

students in the college's various programs.

According to CHHS Dean Leslie Mayrand, the grant completes the funding to provide additional computerized mannequins in the nursing program's High Fidelity Simulation Lab and a Parenting Training Module for the psychology program.

Another component of the project is a new DXA System, the research standard for assessing body composition, for the Kinesiology Department. The grant will also fund a Mobile Research Lab that will be used for community-based research on improving access to mental health services.

## SPS National Award

ASU's chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) has been honored with a Marsh W. White Award, given to SPS projects designed to promote interest in physics among students and the public, and received a corresponding grant from the SPS National Office.

The ASU group will use the \$300 grant to help fund an after-school project with the San Angelo YMCA. Under PASS, or "Physics After School Special," SPS will host about 30 second- through fifth-graders from the YMCA After School Program for six functions, including a special physics demonstration, a PASS Party and four on-campus physics lab programs

demonstrating optics, low temperature physics, acoustics and sound, and lasers.

Two previous White Awards came to ASU in 2003 and 2007.

## More Nurses

The nursing program has been awarded a supplementary grant of \$241,234 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for increasing its enrollment of first-year nursing students during the 2010-11 academic year.

For the 2010-11 academic year, ASU enrolled 199 first-year students through its various nursing programs, up from 127 in academic year 2008-09. The THECB initially awarded ASU \$133,000 in September and has now added the second award to bring the grant total to \$374,234.

"We are enrolling more students," said Dr. Susan Wilkinson, head of the Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences Department, "and this grant is to help cover the extra costs generated by that. We can use it for student materials, stipends for nursing faculty teaching overloads, extra clinical teaching assistants and, on a limited basis, for scholarships." ■



Molly Williams



Leslie Marmon Silko

The challenges of fueling the future and a passion for storytelling were addressed during ASU's distinguished speakers series this spring. Find out what diplomat **Molly Williams**, the E. James Holland-Roy A. Harrell Jr. Foreign Affairs Lecturer, and author **Leslie Marmon Silko**, the keynote speaker for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton, had to say on those topics at

**www.  
angelo.edu/  
ASUMagazine.**



### Top Staff

Four employees – James Daniel “Dan” Robertson, Charles Sebesta, Lindsay Boynton and Jonathan Hawkins – have been named recipients of the President’s Award for Staff Excellence for outstanding job performance in 2011.

Robertson is associate director of University Recreation and Intramurals. Sebesta is a building maintenance technician with Facilities Management. Boynton works as coordinator for leadership development in the Center for Student Involvement. Hawkins is employed as a technology services specialist for Information Technology.

The four were selected from 29 overall nominees in four categories for the awards given each spring semester in recognition of exemplary job performance during the preceding calendar year. The 2011 award recipients, selected by a committee of the ASU Staff Senate, each received a \$1,000 honorarium and an engraved presentation piece.

Robertson received the award for commitment to excellence. Sebesta earned the award for customer service. The award for innovation went to Boynton. Hawkins received the award for leadership.

### Pat Payne

Patricia “Pat” Payne, construction project coordinator for the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, has been named

the second recipient of the Chancellor’s Colonel Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution.

The Rowan Award recognizes a staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in carrying out a major project during the last academic year, and includes a \$500 honorarium. The recipient is selected by Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance.

In her position, Payne manages contracts, verifies costs and reconciles the applications for payment. Her award nomination lauded her for her initiative, diligence and courtesy in working with contractors to make certain they are paid promptly and efficiently while at the same time ensuring that the university has not been overcharged in the complex billing process.

Payne has been on the ASU staff since 2005. She is the first recipient of both the Rowan Award and ASU’s Staff Excellence Award, which she earned in 2010.

### Robert Ehlers

Dr. Robert Ehlers, director of ASU’s Center for Security Studies, was featured on the PBS program “Nova” in a documentary named “3-D Spies of World War II,” which aired throughout the U.S. in January.

Ehler’s book, *Targeting the Third Reich: Air Intelligence and the Allied Bombing Campaign*, caught the attention of the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), which developed the documen-

tary originally titled “Operation Crossbow.” The BBC production, which debuted on BBC2 in May of 2011, examined the role air intelligence and photo reconnaissance played in the Allied forces’ hunt for the German V-1 and V-2 weapons toward the end of World War II.

The documentary was acquired by PBS and renamed before its American debut. It can be viewed at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/military/spies-3d.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/military/spies-3d.html).

### Richard Evans

Dr. Richard Evans of the teacher education faculty has published his first book, *Living With a Learning Difference (Disability): Through the Eyes of the LD Child*.

Published through Outskirts Press, Evans’ book explores the experiences of people with learning disabilities, dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and offers information on how they can achieve academic success with the right instruction and attention.

In writing the book, Evans drew from his own experiences working through learning disabilities.

### QEP Faculty Fellows

Five faculty members have been selected as the university’s first Community-Engaged Faculty Fellows and will develop courses for this fall to enhance student involvement in the local community as part of ASU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

The 2012-13 fellows are Kevin Garrison of English, Christine Purkiss of teacher education, P. Janine Ray of nursing, June Smith of communication and Sharynn Tomlin of management.

The courses developed by all the fellows will serve as a pilot project for the QEP, which will be fully implemented the following year. The QEP is a central requirement of Angelo State’s regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. ASU’s QEP emphasizes community engagement as a teaching and learning method.

Dr. Doyle Carter, QEP director, said, “Our vision is to expand our capacity to reach out to and engage with our community in ways that benefit everyone involved. These experiences have a huge impact on our students, our campus and our community. As we’ve said from the beginning, our goal is for ASU and the people we serve to become more of a learning community.”

### Arnoldo De León, John Eusebio Klingemann

A new book edited by Dr. Arnoldo De León and including chapters by him and Dr. John Eusebio Klingemann, a fellow member of ASU’s history faculty, examines the impact of the Mexican Revolution on Tejano communities along the Texas-Mexico border.

*War Along The Border: The Mexican Revolution and Tejano*

*Communities*, which won the 2011 Robert A. Calvert Book Prize, has been published by Texas A&M University Press. The book represents the first significant treatment of how the Revolution spilled over the border and affected the political, cultural and economic conditions of Mexican-Americans in Texas.

In his chapter, “The Mexican Revolution’s Impact on Tejano Communities: The Historiographic Record,” De León examines the available historical scholarship on the topic and explains how historians view the way in which the revolution shaped the Texas-Mexican experience. He also offers suggestions for topics worth further historical study.

Klingemann titled his chapter “The Population Is Overwhelmingly Mexican; Most of It Is in Sympathy with the Revolution....Mexico’s Revolution of 1910 and the Tejano Community in the Big Bend,” and explores the effect the revolution had on a region normally considered out of the mainstream of events from that time.

### Donna Gee

Dr. Donna Gee of teacher education has been awarded a \$90,000 Teacher Quality Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to extend her project aimed at improving elementary school mathematics education in West Texas.

The grant is being issued through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to fund Gee’s program titled “Algebra for Upper Elementary Teachers.” It is a continuation of a three-year project she began with a previous Teacher Quality Grant in 2009 that was titled “Enhancing Number Sense.”

ASU and the San Angelo Independent School District are partners in the program, which will provide faculty development for elementary math teachers in Region XV.

### Andrew Wallace, Victor Siller

Dr. Andrew Wallace of the physics faculty and Victor Siller, a recent ASU physics graduate, have been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL).

Wallace and Siller were lauded for their “important work with the RadNet monitoring program and collecting environmental samples following the Japanese nuclear reactor accidents at the Fukushima power plant in March of 2011.”

Siller, who graduated in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in applied physics, was conducting a research project on environmental radiation under Wallace’s supervision when the Fukushima accident occurred. Utilizing San Angelo’s RadNet station located on

campus, they monitored local air quality for signs of contamination by the Fukushima fallout. While they did detect a small amount, Wallace said it was minimal – “one million times less than the amount of radioactivity in a household smoke detector.”

### Preston Wimberly

Political science major and Honors Program member Preston Wimberly was chosen to attend the 2012 U.S. Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference in Annapolis, Md., in April.

Each year, select universities are invited to nominate an outstanding undergraduate student to attend the conference to mingle with Navy cadets, discuss significant contemporary issues, share potential solutions to modern dilemmas and hear distinguished diplomatic and political speakers.

This is the fourth straight year that ASU has been invited to nominate a student. The 2012 conference used “Eclipse of the West?” as the theme.

A sophomore from Richardson, Wimberly joined 149 other students from across the U.S. and a dozen other countries at the conference for three days of seminars and discussions.

Keynote speakers at the conference were U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jon Huntsman, former U.S. Ambassador to China.

### John Irish

Dr. John Irish, professor of music/high brass at ASU, gave a world premiere performance of a new work for trumpet and piano at the 2011 International Trumpet Guild (ITG) conference in Minneapolis.

Titled “Concert Gallop (Thunderbolt’s Pursuit),” the work was composed by Australian musician Brendan Collins for world-renowned trumpet virtuoso David Hickman of Tempe, Ariz., who approved Irish’s performance of it during the conference.

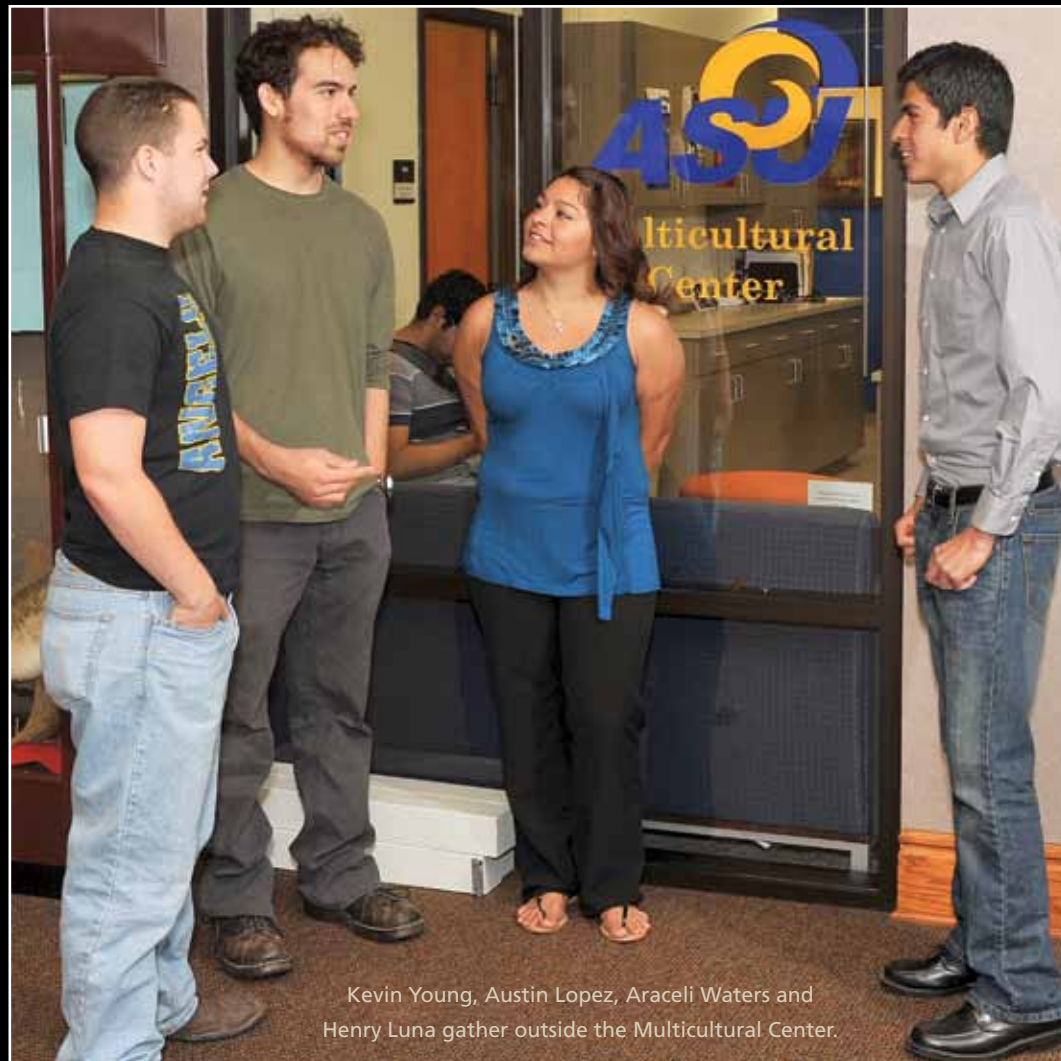
After the conference, a reviewer of the program wrote in the *International Trumpet Guild Journal*, “Irish set the bar high for the rest of the program by presenting an extremely accurate performance of this technically challenging music; his sound was fluid and bold throughout.”

The ITG was founded in 1974 to provide a connection for trumpet players around the world and to promote improved artistic level of performance, teaching, and literature associated with the trumpet. The group has more than 5,000 members in 56 countries. ■



# Center *of attention*

by Tom Nurre with photos by Danny Meyer



Kevin Young, Austin Lopez, Araceli Waters and Henry Luna gather outside the Multicultural Center.

Angelo State has always been a culturally and ethnically diverse institution.

From Ben Kelly breaking the football color barrier in Texas with the Rams in 1953 to official recognition as a Hispanic Serving Institution in 2010 to newly signed agreements to enroll larger groups of South Korean students, ASU has continually recognized the importance of campus cultural diversity.

But, it took a directive from the then-brand new president, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, in 2007 to begin a coordinated effort to truly highlight that diversity. That is when the Multicultural Center was born.

"It was one of the first things Dr. Rallo asked for after he arrived," said Joe Muñoz, senior executive assistant to the president. "He was looking at a campus map and asked where the Multicultural Center was. I told him we didn't have one, and he said, 'Well, we are going to have one, and I want you to make sure it gets going.'"

"Now, I'm a lawyer," Muñoz continued, "and I didn't know much about multicultural centers. So, I had to brief myself and learn what they do."

With the additional new title of assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives on his business card, Muñoz set to work making Rallo's directive a reality.

"He made it clear that he didn't want just a place for students to come hang out," Muñoz said. "That is part of it, and he wanted activities, but he also wanted it to be educational. He wanted programs that inform and educate the campus about the value of diversity and how it ties into the overall educational process at Angelo State."

"Diversity," Rallo said, "whether from a multicultural or international perspective, is key to the learning experience at a university. Our students must be exposed to different views, backgrounds and experiences.



The Multicultural Center brings people together like, from left, Clayton Banister, Cheryl Lewis, Joe Muñoz, Bessphe Mannah and Katherine McGowan.

This is especially important in Texas, where the Hispanic culture is critical to the long-term economic health of the state."

The first step was to find somewhere in the already crowded University Center to house the new initiative. The best that could be found at the time was an area being used for storage.

"We had to have the UC staff clean it out because it was full of tables and chairs," Muñoz said. "So they did that, and then we immediately put up a sign that said 'Multicultural Center.' I wanted the word to get out as quickly as possible."

The center was initially staffed by three full-time employees and a student worker all jammed into the small office with only enough room left over to put a couple of chairs for visitors. But, the important thing was that it was up and running.

"I wanted the students to hear about the center and know that it was open," Muñoz said. "It wasn't a very big office, but I credit the staff with creating the type of welcoming environment that it has."

Another welcoming touch was the row of international flags Rallo had installed in the University Center to represent the home country of each foreign student attending ASU. Each fall, new flags are added as students from additional countries enroll at ASU.

"I think it provides a sense that, even in West Texas, our campus reflects a rich and varied international presence," Rallo said.

The first programs to move under the Multicultural Center umbrella were the Up and Coming Scholars and Mother-Daughter programs, which are designed to recruit West Texas students to ASU. Because of its cramped quarters, the center's other early role was simply being a place where students could go to ask questions about diversity issues and campus life.

In the fall of 2010, the center moved to expanded offices just inside the north entrance to the University Center. Today, the Multicultural Center boasts four full-time staff, one part-timer and three student workers. As the center has grown, so has the number and variety of programs and activities it offers and





Campus multicultural scenes

oversees, including several programs aimed at first-generation students.

“We wanted to reach out to traditionally underrepresented students, but not exclusively,” Muñoz said. “If you work with first-generation students, they include a lot of underrepresented students, so they overlap. We charged our staff with creating programs to reach out to first-generation students, and that is how ASUFirst came about.”

ASUFirst brings to the ASU campus West Texas high school students who are considering becoming the first in their families to attend college. Additional first-generation student initiatives include the Host Family program, which provides local support for students living away from their own families, and the Raising and Meeting Standards (RAMS) program that provides student mentors to first-generation students to help them get through their freshman year.

“As our recruiting programs grew,” Muñoz said, “we saw we were getting more students to ASU, but we were then losing a lot of them. We realized we had to get more involved in their everyday lives as a way to retain them. As a result, our retention rates are really improving.”

“But, Dr. Rallo wants us to do more than retain them,” he continued. “We need to graduate them. So, we try to get more and more involved with them, and that is why we have all these first-generation programs.”

In addition to formulating new programs, the larger staff and expanded office space have allowed the center to become more of a gathering place for students from all walks of life. More than 2,000 students visit the center each month.

“We have a lot of resource material,” Muñoz said. “We have magazines, books, videos and DVDs, all pertaining to diversity and multiculturalism. We also have a place for students to just come in and relax, as well as a computer lab and places for them to study.”

“We also have games,” he added. “It’s not unusual for students to come in and play Twister or gather to put together a puzzle. I have to give the credit to our staff because they are the ones who drive it all and are constantly coming up with new ideas to improve the center.”

Those improvements have also included office aesthetics. Even when he has reservations, Muñoz allows the staff to move forward with their ideas.

“They wanted one of the walls to be blue with something else painted on it,” he said. “I give them a lot of autonomy because they are smart, but I didn’t think it was going to work. Now, everybody loves our wall. I don’t take any credit for that because I know my limitations.”

The center has also developed into sponsoring campus-wide cultural activities and events, including monthly celebrations of different cultures, guest speakers and a movie series. Social activities include the El Cafecito free morning coffee gatherings and evening Zumba sessions and Latin dance classes.

“We try to collaborate with as many other departments on campus as we can,” Muñoz said. “We work with International Studies on different programs, as well as the Center for Security Studies, Admissions and others. We do everything we can to get the word out that we are here. We really stretch our resources to the very limit, but that is what we are supposed to do.”

Recent collaborative efforts have included bringing in speakers, like World War II Navajo Code Talker Samuel Tso and Holocaust survivors, and co-sponsoring ASU’s Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Discussion Series, International Education Week activities, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Black History Month celebrations.

Part of the reasoning behind sponsoring such a variety of events is to confront the misconception that the Multicultural Center is just for Hispanic and other minority students.

“That is why we try to be as inclusive as possible,” Muñoz said. “We are about educating everyone about everyone else. We recognize that we don’t have a lot of Anglo students visiting the center, and we understand why. A lot of them think the center is only for minority or underrepresented students, but it’s not.”

“We go to the residence halls and give talks,” he added. “Most of the students we talk to are Anglo, and they don’t even know we have a Multicultural Center. We stress to

them that the center is for everyone and all are invited. It’s picking up some, and we are upping our efforts to get out more and let all students see we are here for everyone.”

Muñoz’s vision for the center’s future includes extended operating hours, more social celebrations, offering cooking and other life skills instruction, and expanded collaboration with more academic departments on diversity topics. Regarding staff, he would like to add a full-time recruiter to bring in more minority and underrepresented students from a much wider geographic area.

“Hispanic families are very cautious about distance,” Muñoz said, “so we have very few students from places like the Rio Grande Valley. Safety is another issue for underrepresented groups. Parents want to know their kids will be safe if they let them go to college. And of course, cost is a major issue.”

“We understand those issues,” he continued. “We know how to reach out to those students and their parents, who want to hear from other students of the same race about how ASU is treating them. Most first-generation students are going to be minority, whether it’s Hispanic, African-American or even Asian-American. They are growing populations, and we want to reach out to them.”

A larger space for the Multicultural Center is also high on Muñoz’s wish list.

“There are a lot more things that we can do with more room,” he said. “If we can bring more minority and underrepresented students to campus and retain them, it will help with our budget and with our overall population. ASU is trying to grow to 10,000 and we are doing our best to help.”

When it comes to his hopes and dreams for the Multicultural Center, Muñoz certainly has the president’s ear because, as he has from day one of his ASU tenure, Rallo remains firmly committed to his initial directive.

“We need to ensure that the center retains its central role in the life of our campus,” Rallo said. “Currently, we have 27 percent of our students with a Hispanic

background as well as over 63 percent of our students being first generation. As we continue to increase these totals as our enrollment grows and we add significant numbers of international students, especially South Korean, we will monitor the space and personnel needs of the center.”

“As I state with every presentation I make,” he concluded, “we are not about graduating students. We are about graduating students who can compete successfully in a world where a diverse and multicultural outlook is vital.” ■



ASU diversity on parade



# Embracing Diversity

# Overcoming Adversity



Devon Bolan



José Cano

*“I started not feeling so homesick anymore. I started to feel like I had a family here.”*

— José Cano

**Devon Bolan** knew she would meet lots of new people at Angelo State, but she had no idea there would be so many different kinds.

Though she is a first-generation student, the Burnet native grew up in a household where her parents expected her to keep her grades up in high school so she could get a higher education. As a senior, she considered and visited several universities, but a trip to see the ASU campus ended the debate. She was sold.

“When I came here, I really liked the environment,” Bolan said. “I like how small the classes are and how the teachers know all the students. I didn’t really want to go to a big school, so ASU seemed like a perfect fit.”

Armed with a Carr Scholarship, as well as 19 credit hours from her high school advanced placement and college equivalency courses, Bolan was confident in her academic skills and is now a sophomore business management major. She also had little difficulty integrating into the ASU campus community.

“I’m a pretty social person,” Bolan said, “so it really wasn’t a big deal for me to meet people. I just kind of jumped right in. Because ASU is not such a big campus, it’s easier for students to get in there and get involved.”

As a first-generation student, Bolan was eligible for a host family through the Multicultural Center. Her host parents are Lorina Soza-Klingemann, the center’s office coordinator, and Dr. John Klingemann of the ASU history faculty. From her first visit to the center to meet with Lorina, Bolan was hooked.

“There are always lots of people around,” she said, “and there is always free food, so I like that. It’s really a family environment that you miss out on a lot in college.”

“There are also kids from a lot of different races and cultures that hang out here,” Bolan continued. “All the international students like to come in here, and that is so much fun because I meet people from so many different places. I have friends from Ireland, South Korea, England, Zimbabwe

and the Congo. Some of them speak different languages, so getting to meet them is really cool.”

Hanging out in the Multicultural Center also has the side benefits of keeping Bolan grounded and out of trouble.

“I would certainly have a lot more free time to do things that are not so good for me,” she said. “I’m not really a partier, but I probably would not be spending my time as wisely if I didn’t have the Multicultural Center. It keeps me focused.”

So, Bolan remains a fixture in the Multicultural Center and calls her experiences there the most unexpected and uplifting of her time at ASU.

“There are so many students here, like me, who are from small towns in Texas,” she said, “and they don’t realize there are so many cultures represented here. In the Multicultural Center, you really get to see that diversity. Growing up in a small town, you don’t see a lot of diversity, so it is definitely enriching my life.” ■

**Without the Multicultural Center,** José Cano would no longer be a student and probably would never have come to Angelo State at all.

A native of Guanajuato, Mexico, Cano moved with his family to Merkel in 2004 and graduated from Merkel High School in 2009. His high school counselor had him apply and get accepted to several colleges, but he was not actually planning on going because he did not want to leave his family and did not think he could afford it. ASU Multicultural Center staff had other ideas and gave him a call.

“I talked to Mr. (Joe) Muñoz and Flor Madero,” Cano said, “and told them I wanted to come but didn’t have the resources. They told me about ASU scholarships, loans and other programs to help me out. Flor told me to come for a visit, and the day I visited I filled out the rest of the paperwork to come to ASU because I really liked it here.”

The combination of a TEXAS Grant, several scholarships and student loans helped

Cano overcome the monetary issues, but his early days at ASU were still a struggle.

“My family is really close, and coming to ASU was the first time I was ever away from them,” Cano said. “I was very homesick, especially the first few months. I went home every weekend.”

“Back then, I was probably only 60 percent fluent in English,” he added. “That was my major issue because I was scared I would not understand in class and that my professors would struggle with my speech.”

The Multicultural Center’s Host Family program helped Cano get his bearings.

“My host family helped me feel like I fit in more,” Cano said, “because I started not feeling so homesick anymore. I started to feel like I had a family here. I think that program is helpful to any students, not just first-generation students, but also for any that come from out of town. I know it really helped me a lot.”

The First Generation Raising and Meeting Standards (RAMS) program then helped address his academic fears.

“They told me all about the resources ASU has for all students,” Cano said. “They told me how to manage my time, how to get help with my homework and how to make connections with other students. I didn’t know anything about the Writing Center or Math Lab until I got in the RAMS program.”

“When I was taking English, I used the Writing Center a lot,” he added. “I was in remedial English and math, and the labs really helped me a lot in passing those classes.”

Now a junior marketing major, Cano is returning those favors as a student worker in the Multicultural Center.

“I want to help other students who are in the same situation as me,” he said. “We focus on first-generation students because most of us don’t know the resources that are here for us, or that there are many programs that can guide us through every step of college life.”

“I love ASU,” he added. “I’m planning to graduate and hopefully stay here for graduate school as well.” ■



# Timing Is Money

by Preston Lewis and Tom Nurre



Photos by Danny Meyer

New microscope funded by HSI grant.

**Never has the adage** “timing is everything” resounded louder for Angelo State University than over the last two years since the U.S. Department of Education designated the university as a “Hispanic Serving Institution.”

The resulting influx of federal dollars has helped ASU better adapt to the tough economic environment that has brought about budget reductions. Further and most importantly, Hispanic Serving Institution, or HSI, grants have allowed ASU to expand needed student services and to upgrade facilities at a time when construction monies have dried up.

“The HSI grants,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “have allowed us to address a variety of programmatic and facilities upgrades beneficial to all of our students. This came at a time when state resources were in decline, so the upside has been tremendous for us as an institution. The only downside has been the misconception held by some that these monies only benefit Hispanic students. To the contrary, the resulting benefits are shared by all our students.”

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo visits with students.



Luis Martinez and Sarah Privert work in ASU's Writing Lab.

HSI grants are funded through the Department of Education's Title V and Title III programs, which are open to colleges and universities documenting a minimum 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. ASU reached that percentage in the fall of 2009, received the HSI designation and subsequently applied for a Title V grant.

In the fall of 2010, Angelo State University was awarded an HSI grant for \$629,968, the first installment of a five-year, \$3,218,334 Title V grant scheduled to run through 2015. That was the largest Department of Education grant up until that time for ASU. Receiving the initial HSI designation qualified ASU to apply for other HSI grants as well.

This past October, ASU in collaboration with the Howard County Junior College District received a second HSI grant, a \$1,177,817 Title III award from the Department of Education to increase the number of students, especially Hispanic and low-income students, completing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

After a successful first year of funding, ASU and Howard College stand to gain an additional \$3,912,650 over the next four federal fiscal years, bringing the total grant to \$5,090,467, split \$3,168,957 for ASU and \$1,921,510 for Howard.

Joe Muñoz, special assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives and director of ASU's Multicultural Center, is project director of ASU's first HSI grant.

“The main focus of the grant when it was written was to support students,” Muñoz said. “We have so many students in re-

medial classes, both English and math, that we wanted to better address their needs by expanding our efforts in tutoring and supplemental instruction. Our goal is to create a coherent, unified program that will enhance our retention and ultimately increase our graduation rates.”

Dr. Vance Valerio, ASU's vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said, “The grant is called a ‘strengthening institutions grant,’ allowing ASU to reach out to communities in our service area and to provide encouragement and support services to all students as they move toward graduation.”

So, first-year HSI grant monies were used to renovate, consolidate and provide the technology for both tutoring and online faculty training. The grant allowed ASU to double its tutoring space, hire five new tutors, provide applicable training to almost two dozen faculty members and purchase a software package and service named ALEKS, an acronym for Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces, to help with remedial math delivery.

As a result, the new Academic Resource Center has been centrally located on the third floor of the Porter Henderson Library to consolidate the Writing Center, Math Lab, tutoring and Supplemental Instruction.

“These are important steps,” Muñoz said, “to help ensure that our students, many of whom are first-generation or Hispanic or low-income students, have a successful college experience, and by successful we mean completing their degrees.”

The HSI monies are also used for outreach beyond the campus to preach the im-

portance of a college education to Hispanics and first-generation students. HSI outreach coordinator Isabel Carrillo travels throughout Texas promoting higher education to K-12 students and their families in venues ranging from schools to churches to camps.

Once first-generation students enroll at ASU, HSI programs such as Raising and Meeting Standards, or RAMS, help them transition to college life and ultimately succeed.

Wrote one RAMS participant in his evaluation, “I have learned about the many resources that ASU has to offer. For many first-generation students coming to college, it is a totally different experience. I did not know anything about the procedures to follow as a freshman in college, but as part of the program I learned tips on how to study, manage my time wisely and get to know new people as well. So far, the first-generation RAMS helped me to not feel lost in this new college environment and gave me the tools to prepare myself for college.”

Valerio said, “HSI has created the opportunity to boldly proclaim that student success and achievement are mainstays of the ASU experience. It has bolstered numerous support services and it has helped solidify the new division of student affairs and enrollment management. As for its legacy, students will embrace the notion that they can succeed in college and in life, that they can make a difference and that ASU is a community that cares about them holistically.”

Just as the initial HSI grant has an outreach component, so does the HSI-STEM

HSI – continued on page 51



# friends and Family

by Roy Ivey

**When Hispanic students** arrive at Angelo State University, they find the Association of Mexican American Students (AMAS) ready to welcome them with open arms.

An ASU student organization for more than 30 years and one of the largest on campus, AMAS has built a tradition of bringing new Hispanic students into the ASU family. The group's acronym even forms a Spanish word that translates as "you love."

"Students find the family atmosphere a comforting and supportive experience," said Dr. John Klingemann, ASU assistant professor of history and AMAS faculty advisor. "AMAS functions as a family that, in conjunction with other institutions at Angelo State, enables students to succeed at the undergraduate level. Students discover

a family atmosphere in AMAS that supports their transition to university life as well as their eventual graduation."

The group's friendliness and enthusiasm is what convinced AMAS President Isaias Martinez, a junior pre-social work major, to check it out as a freshman.

"I'm from Killeen," Martinez said, "and not a lot of Hispanics went to my school, so when I came to ASU, I found it very shocking to see how many Hispanics were here. I saw how they talked about AMAS and I wanted to see what was so amazing about it."

"I went to a meeting, and they got me with their motivation," he continued. "They were all active, and the officers would keep you entertained. They would call to make sure I was coming, and if I said no, they

would say, 'Why not?' They were just looking for you, which makes you feel good about yourself."

As a result of such active campus outreach, AMAS boasts about 80 members, making it one of ASU's largest student organizations.

"They think of more than just themselves," said Heather Valle, student organizations coordinator in the Center for Student Involvement. "It is about family and friends in the biological sense and in the sense of the ASU community."

In addition to Hispanic students, the rest of the ASU community also benefits from AMAS activities. Members are highly visible participants in many campus events, including Discover ASU, student organization fairs, Rambunctious Weekend and athletic contests. Members also serve as RAMbassadors, SOAR leaders and student government representatives.

"They are plugged into campus," Valle said. "In the four years I have been here, I have thoroughly enjoyed every year working with them."

That is a tradition Martinez hopes to both uphold and extend.

"I would like to see AMAS imprinted at ASU, not just that we've been here, but that

we are here," he said. "We are planning a tradition for Homecoming, like ROTC has the bonfire building. We would love to do something like that."

The popularity of AMAS has also spawned a couple of sub-groups within the organization. The Mariposas, which is Spanish for butterflies, focus on women's issues.

"The Mariposas are made up of women in AMAS who put on outreach events around campus," Valle said. "One day, it was chilly, and they just went out in front of the University Center and gave away chicken soup. They also work on event decorations and women's group events."

Other recent service activities for the Mariposas include working with the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, Concho Valley Emergency Girls Shelter and the Girl Scouts.

There is also a sub-group for men, Hermanos de AMAS, created to form a brotherhood and help reverse the negative trend of young Hispanic men not going to college.

"They are very close family-wise," Martinez said, "so they find it hard to help their family and go to school. When their family does not see how going to school is helping out, it is hard for them to keep go-

ing. We want to fill in for that family support group because we need Latino men in higher education."

In addition to recruiting more Hispanic male students, AMAS hopes to also reach out to even younger students and get them thinking about a college education well ahead of time.

"We want to go to the middle schools," Martinez said. "Although it isn't too late for people in high school to decide to go to college, we want to have more of an alliance with middle and elementary schools. It is never too early to discuss college and, because some students are thinking about it at the last minute in high school, they feel overwhelmed."

Throughout all of their efforts, the basic premise for AMAS members remains constant, to provide a welcoming atmosphere and positive influence for all of ASU's Hispanic students. One example of an AMAS success story is graduate student Vincent Perez, former AMAS president and 2011-12 vice president of the ASU Student Government Association.

"They helped me focus my life on the direction that I wanted it to go, which is in higher education," Perez said. "Many students go through the same barriers that I

went through, like homesickness, missing friends and family, seeing loved ones pass away or becoming seriously ill, and going through relationship issues. AMAS helped me get through all those tough times, and if AMAS had not been there for me when I needed them, I'm not sure that I would be the person I am today."

"Once I joined AMAS and decided to run for president," he added, "I worked to get my grades up because I had to lead by example. I saw all of these people coming in from high school, and the people I led at one time are now leading other people. I like to see that."

AMAS faculty leader Klingemann had a similar experience as an undergraduate at Sul Ross State University, where he was a member and later an officer in the Spanish Club. He understands the benefits of having a campus support group and is helping the next generation of Hispanic students.

"The time I spent in that organization taught me many skills," Klingemann said, "but most importantly, I learned the value an organization has in the lives of undergraduates. AMAS has grown exponentially due to student dedication and success." ■



AMAS President  
Isaias Martinez



Photos by Danny Meyer

For additional insight into the Latino influence on Angelo State, check out "Driving Growth," "All in the Family," "A Generation of Possibilities" and "The Business of Trade"

at [www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine)

AMAS members David Reyes, Emily Banda, faculty sponsor John Klingemann, Manuel Zapata and Anais Alday



by Preston Lewis

# Ironclad Optimism



Joe Muñoz

**One hot day** while his mother was doing the family ironing, Joe Muñoz happened to point out that she was not getting the crease just right in his pants, an important sartorial detail for her Lake View High School son.

"She sat the iron down, handed me my pants and never ironed another pair for me, no warning, no probation," Muñoz recalled. "I'm just glad I didn't complain about her cooking or I would've starved."

The lesson in gratitude took, and today Muñoz is grateful to have worked at ASU under the past three presidents and to have accumulated more titles than will fit on a university business card. He is senior executive assistant to the president and assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives. He is the project director for ASU's Hispanic Serving Institution grant. Additionally, he is a lecturer in the College of Business and de facto legal counsel for the university.

"I feel like I am one of the most blessed individuals on the face of the Earth. I really feel that way," Muñoz said, "and I was thinking about why. How did I get here? I think my experience is all positive and there were a lot of factors. I think the most important was family; we had a strong family."

In addition to his parents, Muñoz grew up with four brothers and two sisters. His father worked most of his life at a filling station, typically laboring six days a week, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Meanwhile, Muñoz's mother stayed at home until her youngest child started school, then she worked as a teacher's aide for 26 years. His mother had graduated from high school and even gone to San Angelo College in the 1940s, an accomplishment for any woman much less a Hispanic one. Though Muñoz's dad dropped out of high school, he eventually earned his GED after his military service, which helped define and shape him.

"As a result, he was very patriotic," Muñoz said. "My parents would put up a flagpole and he would fly the American flag,

that's just the way he was. I think that the combination of my mother's side with academics and my dad's side with the work ethic contributed to our success. My dad was always quick to point out that Mom was the one who raised us and was responsible for the successes in our family, since we didn't see much of him."

"Out of the seven kids, we all graduated from high school, six of us have college degrees and two of us have advanced degrees," he said. "I think that combination of being knowledgeable about the street from our dad and having the academic push from our mom really helped out a lot in my family."

Too, his elementary school teachers, particularly in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, helped out. Because his family was poor, living for many years in a home where they had to heat water, Muñoz had to work in the cafeteria at lunch times to qualify for free meals like his three older brothers had done before him.

"My teachers' character and their human nature made it special for me, because I had to leave class early each day to work lunch," Muñoz remembered. "They never embarrassed me. They just said it was time for me to go help in the cafeteria, so it got to the point where other kids who didn't have to work, thought they wanted to go work in the cafeteria. I mean, at a time when you are trying to develop your self-esteem and you're 10, 11, 12 years old, these teachers were just outstanding, especially since I was sometimes the only Hispanic in class."

For Muñoz, those final years of grade school were nurturing times and helped prepare him for junior and then senior high. After he got his high school diploma, he considered joining the Army, primarily because he wanted to differentiate himself from his older brothers who had all gone to college. Those were the Vietnam years, and his mother asked him

just to try college for a semester and then decide whether or not to enlist. He found he enjoyed the Angelo State experience and went on to get his degree in elementary education, planning to become an elementary school principal in a low-income, high-minority neighborhood.

Right after graduation, he worked as a substitute teacher, then an older brother who was a lawyer convinced him to get a law degree. He earned his J.D. at Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, then went into private practice a couple years in Houston before returning to San Angelo as the first Hispanic to serve as an assistant city attorney for the City of San Angelo. He next became an assistant district attorney and then the second Hispanic elected to the San Angelo Independent School District Board.

In 1993, he was seated by ASU President Lloyd D. Vincent at a luncheon and happened to mention how much he loved education and that he planned to get back

into education after he retired. Vincent convinced him not to wait, and Muñoz applied for a position in the Equal Education Opportunity Services Office. He would later move to the President's Office, where he has worked ever since.

"I love what I am doing," Muñoz said. "Every job I have had has been better than the one that I left, and the one that I left was incredible. I mean, I have the best job on campus now, even though I wear so many hats."

With such a positive attitude, Muñoz looks back with gratitude on his experience as a Hispanic in San Angelo.

"I grew up with nearly all Anglos, and I had this tremendous result from it," Muñoz said. "I had nothing but positive coming out of it, though I can understand where some minorities might not have had a beneficial outcome. For me, it was tremendous, really."

Except, of course, he had to iron his own pants. ■







# School Shoes

by Preston Lewis

**As a young girl** growing up in the barrio on the south side of the Interstate in Ozona, Leonor Peña Constancio looked forward to the start of school each year because it meant she got her annual pair of new shoes.

By the end of the school year, however, the newness had worn off and holes had appeared in the toes of the shoes that could not contain her growing young feet.

"I was so embarrassed when I sat in front of people," Constancio said, "that I always tried to cover my feet."

Despite her impoverished roots, Constancio used her drive to carry her to the big city of San Angelo, where today she works as a publications assistant in ASU's Office of Communications and Marketing, designing everything from the covers of the graduate and undergraduate catalogs to the commencement programs. She is president of the American Advertising Federation of San Angelo (AAF-SA), which named her Member of the Year in 2011.

In many ways, how far she has come is much greater than the 82 miles between Ozona and San Angelo. And she wants to go farther, working at present on the missing piece of her professional career, a college diploma.

A degree was the farthest thing from her mind growing up in Ozona. Her mother suffered chronic depression after losing both a son and daughter, each barely a year old. Her absentee, alcoholic father worked out of town and out of state in the oil business, indirectly sending money to help out. Her maternal grandmother and the Catholic Church became the childhood anchors for her, her brother and her sister.

"My grandmother, who spoke no English, dedicated her whole life to raising us; she never had a life of her own," Constancio said. "She set the path for my brother and me to look to God for anything because she was very devout. I never felt poor because she made us go to church. She helped inspire our spirituality. As kids, we were worried about our mother and we took care of each other. My brother was the male figure and he was only a year older than me. My grandmother depended on him to take care of his two sisters."

Though the moral foundation was there, the economic foundation was missing.

"We didn't have much in the way of things," Constancio recalled. "We were those people the church always took care of at Christmas. Honestly, I never really knew I was poor because everybody around me was the same."

But by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, she realized she wanted more than her family could provide, especially when she saw friends down the street going out to eat and she couldn't join them because she didn't have the money. Even though she was a shy tomboy, she took a waitress job at El Chato's in Ozona and worked there until the summer after she graduated from high school.

"When I first started there, I had never eaten at a restaurant," Constancio said. "The closest I came to a restaurant was when my dad came home and brought a little white bag of hamburgers. I didn't know people went out to eat every day."

The job transformed her.

"My former boss told me when I started," said Constancio, dropping her chin, "that I was walking around like this, with my head down too shy to look at people. By the time I left, he said he couldn't shut me up. I credit working in a restaurant for losing my shyness. I met a lot of people."

Additionally, she earned a paycheck and the first discretionary money she had ever had.

"One of the very first things I bought myself with my very first paycheck," said Constancio, "was the album 'Born Late' by Shaun Cassidy. He was my teen idol. The funny part is that I didn't own a record player, but I bought it anyway, because I knew one day I would. I still have that album."

Beyond an occasional whim purchase, Constancio said, "I didn't have anywhere to go or anywhere to spend money. By the time I quit the restaurant, I had saved enough money to leave and continue my education."

Her grandmother, who had raised and nurtured Constancio and her siblings, was against that idea.

"When I was a senior in high school," Constancio recalled, "I was telling my grandmother I wanted to go on to school. She said, 'you're not going anywhere. You're staying right here.' She wasn't educated, nor was my mother, who dropped out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. My father only had a third-grade education. My grandmother just thought I needed to get married. I was the female and expected to stay home."

Instead, Constancio moved to San Angelo, earning a grant to enroll at American Commercial College and attending classes 6-9 p.m. weekdays for a year.

"I probably could have gotten a grant to ASU," Constancio said, "but I had no knowledge about college opportunities."

Within two weeks of arriving in San Angelo, she took a job at Quick Quality Printing as a receptionist, learning the elements

of the printing trade, including design and production. She was later hired by Rangel Printing, where she ultimately became office manager. While there, she caught the eye of a customer – Arturo Constancio – who came in to order some business cards and ultimately arranged an introduction to Miss Peña. They would later marry and have a son, Levi, now a senior at the University of Texas at El Paso.

"One of the things that attracted me to Arturo," said Constancio, "was his family. His family was limitless. I love the bigness of his family. There's so many of them."

With a young son, she began to look for a job with better benefits and became an account executive with Newsfoto/Taylor Publishing Co., which printed school yearbooks nationally and offered her the opportunity to travel and broaden her horizons. When Taylor Publishing moved its operation to Dallas, Constancio worked at Company Printing before starting at ASU in 2007.

"Printing is all I've ever known professionally," Constancio said. "I've watched it evolve in my experience from a walk-in secretarial service for typing letters to typesetting on a DOS system, from carbon paper to computer software and the design programs we have now. It's all about creating things and having dreams, and I'm the biggest dreamer there is."

And despite her success, such as winning the 2011 AAF-SA Addy Award for best overall design for a University Police Department banner, one dream remained unfulfilled.

"I took a short cut after high school because it was right for me at that time, and it was my means to move out of poverty," Constancio said. "I was successful in taking care of myself, but I always want more. I always had that regret that I didn't have that degree."

In addition to her full-time ASU work schedule, Constancio is taking classes part time and is a third of the way to completing her bachelor's degree at the university.

"Right now I have years and years of professional experience and talent, a strong work ethic and anything an employer would look for, except I don't have this one thing – a college degree – that would complete the package. It's like that hole in my shoe." ■

Leonor Constancio





Hector Romo

# Road to Success

**Distance** is only one of the obstacles Angelo State University senior Hector Romo has had to overcome on his winding road to success.

Add in English proficiency and income to the distance equation, and Romo a decade ago would have been a longshot to become ASU's student body president for 2011-12.

A native of Torreón, Mexico, about 600 miles south of San Angelo, Romo and his family hopscotched their way north during his childhood until eventually settling in Veribest, a farming community just south-east of San Angelo. Those multiple moves also helped Romo overcome another obstacle – separation from his father.

"The main reason I came here was that my dad has always lived here," Romo said. "My family lived in Torreón, and we wouldn't see my dad except once or twice every couple of months."

Along the way to the farm in Veribest where his dad worked, Romo's family first moved to Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, and then right across the border to Del Rio. It was in Acuña that Romo overcame another obstacle, the English language.

"I started learning English between sixth and seventh grade," Romo said, "because I wanted to play the 'Legend of Zelda' video game. I already knew most of the English they were teaching in Acuña because of that game and from reading English dictionaries."

By honing his English skills, Romo thrived in Del Rio and then Veribest, where he graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. While living in Del Rio, he had planned to attend a vocational school in Mexico and major in computer science. But, Veribest's proximity to Angelo State prompted his family to have him check out what ASU had to offer.

"Even though I wasn't really thinking about going to ASU," he said, "I went to Discover ASU and took a tour. The guide pointed out the Student Government Office and I thought, 'that's cool, but it's never going to be for me.'"

Romo thought the cost of a U.S. college education put attending ASU out of his reach, but instead, it became just one more obstacle to overcome. He applied for all the scholarships he could find and received several, including Carr Academic and LeGrand scholarships, which helped fund his education along with federal Pell grants and student loans.

"I got one scholarship for \$5,000 and almost cried because I was so happy," he said.

A biology major, Romo was elected president of the Student Government Association in 2011 as a senior. He hopes to go to medical school after he finishes a Master of Education in student development/leadership in higher education. He also hopes the story of his long road to success can be an example for other young Hispanics to follow.

"If they want it," he said, "they can get it. People in Del Rio told me how expensive college is in the U.S. and how difficult it is to get into college. With a lot of information and using available resources, I did it and they can, too."

Romo also has some advice for those who do decide to take up that challenge.

"Seek help," he said. "A lot of Hispanic students are shy or proud and say they can do it on their own. I admire their thinking, but I couldn't do it on my own, so I sought help. I would say, 'Don't give up, even when those closest to you are telling you that you cannot do it. Just seek help and don't forget where you came from.'"

# Buy the Numbers

**Proximity**, at least by Texas standards, brought Margaret Peña Mata to Angelo State University as a first-generation college student. Talent, by any standard, has kept her on campus since then.

As ASU's director of purchasing, Mata oversees thousands of purchases annually. The goods she signs off on run the gamut from paperclips to laboratory equipment, and the services she okays range from recruiting consultants to makeup artists for an *ASU Magazine* photo shoot in Miami, Fla. And before she approves any purchase, she has to make certain each falls within the acceptable parameters of the hundreds of rules she must follow, depending upon the source of the funds and the applicable state and federal regulations.

It is a complex and often thankless job that is miles away – 160 miles to be exact – from her childhood on a Val Verde County ranch where her father worked as a hand for many years before moving his family to Comstock, a community of less than 400 residents about 30 miles northwest of Del Rio.

"I loved the tranquility of ranch life, the peace and quiet, or as much peace and quiet as you could get with a family of six kids," Mata recalled. "I was in the sixth or seventh grade when we moved to Comstock. I call it a town, but it was still country."

Whether in town or on the ranch, the Peña family led a modest life.

"I didn't have much growing up," Mata said. "It was a really good Christmas when we got a toy rather than something like socks. It was always a neat thing when we could afford to go to Del Rio to a drive-in movie, buy a box of chicken and sodas, then go watch the movie as a family. That was a splurge for us."

What was plentiful, though, was the parental love and support which nurtured

Mata's interests in reading and in academics. Her mother, whose schooling went through the ninth grade, and her father, who made it through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, were both encouraging.

"They always stressed how important an education was," Mata said. "My mother would always tell us, especially the girls, 'You've got to be able to work. Just because you are married, you've got to be able to survive if you happen to wind up on your own.'"

After graduating from high school, Mata chose ASU because it was large enough to get a good education, but not too big as to be intimidating for a freshman from Comstock. Too, some of her friends were headed to school in San Angelo, and without a car, she would need a way home on occasion.

She arrived on campus and worked first in Runnels Hall and her final two years in the Purchasing Office as she was accustomed to work. The academic transition, however, was not as easy.

"My first semester was rough and I didn't know what to do," Mata said. "I remember writing to my mom and apologizing for not being able to hack it and for wanting to drop out. Mom and Dad talked me into staying."

Her older brothers, who joined the workforce after high school, chipped in to help Mata finish her degree. In 1984, she earned her B.B.A., becoming the first member of her family to earn a college diploma. Her two younger sisters followed in her footsteps, each furthering her education.

After two years away from ASU, she returned in 1986 to work in the Purchasing Office. She was named director of purchasing in 1994.

"I enjoy the challenge of learning new processes," Mata said. "I'm always tasked with trying to find a better way to do some-



Margaret Mata

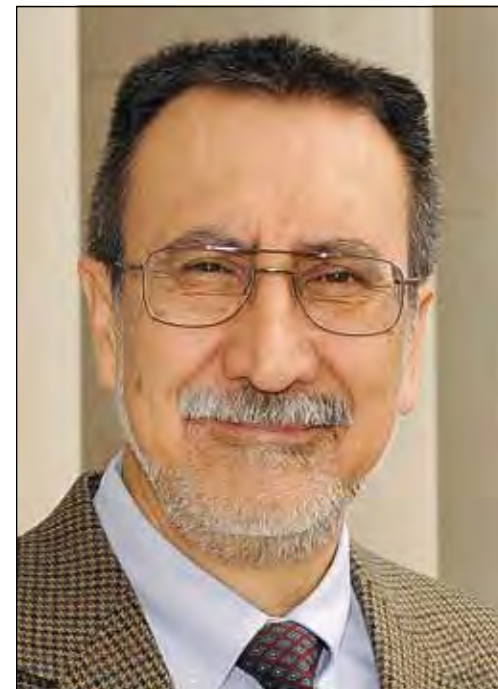
thing. That's why it doesn't get old, and I enjoy working with the staff I have. That's always an enjoyment where you have a good staff, one that knows the processes and is willing to learn. That always makes my job easier."

The job, though, is one she would never have had if she had let her challenging first semester at ASU intimidate her.

"I think all students need to set a goal and strive to reach that goal," Mata said. "It's not always going to be easy, but you can't give up at the first hurdle you reach. Actually, if I had done that, I probably would not have finished my education nor have this job."



Maria de  
los Santos  
Onofre-Madrid



Roberto Garza

## Greener Pastures

# Embracing Cultures

**Maria de los Santos Onofre-Madrid** teaches more than just Spanish to her students at Angelo State University.

An assistant professor of Spanish, Onofre-Madrid believes teaching the context of Spanish customs and traditions is just as important as teaching the language. To that end, she engages her students in discussions about food, clothing, music, geography and other cultural topics.

“My favorite part about teaching at ASU,” she said, “is being able to teach others my language and talk to them not only about my culture, but the cultures in other Spanish-speaking countries. I like being able to make an impact on students and motivate them to learn the language, culture and history.”

Students also have the opportunity to experience Spanish culture firsthand by accompanying Onofre-Madrid on her study abroad trips to Spain through the ASU Center for International Studies. She took 10 students in 2011 and is taking 10 more this summer to the Instituto Español Muralla de Ávila in Ávila, Spain.

For her efforts on behalf of her students, Onofre-Madrid received a 2010 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

However, before she began teaching new language and cultures to her students, she had to learn those same lessons herself.

A native of Morelos, Coahuila, Mexico, Onofre-Madrid spoke only Spanish when she moved with her family to Texas as an eight-year-old.

“We first went to Iraan,” she said, “where I had my best experience in the classroom with children who were all Anglos. My brother and I were the only Hispanics and we didn’t know English at all, but we had a teacher who was bilingual and was very helpful working on our English skills. Also, two children showed us things on the playground and would tell us what they were in English, so we also learned from them.”

Her next couple of stops on the road to Angelo State were not so positive. In Eldorado, she and other Hispanic students were sent to the school nurse’s office during recess for speaking Spanish on the playground. After Eldorado, she moved to a segregated Hispanics-only school in Sonora.

“We thought, ‘They only want us to be with Hispanics,’” she said. “We can’t be with Anglos? We couldn’t understand that. Coming from Mexico, you didn’t even hear of

discrimination at all. We were there for four days and went back to Mexico for a while before my dad found us a place in Christoval.”

It was in Christoval that Onofre-Madrid flourished, graduating as valedictorian of her high school class. Her school counselors and superintendent then advised her to become a U.S. citizen because it would help her get into college. She did that in 1973 and went on to get a bachelor’s degree from ASU, earn a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, and conduct doctoral studies at UT-Austin.

It was studying for the U.S. citizenship exam that really helped Onofre-Madrid embrace the culture of her new homeland, including her favorite part, the singing of the national anthem.

“My phone has the national anthem for the ringtone,” Onofre-Madrid said. “I also like to be on time when I go to sporting events so I can listen to the national anthem. I’m very proud to be an American citizen and for having to work to get it.”

With equal pride in her Spanish heritage and American citizenship, Onofre-Madrid employs both in her classes to teach her students much more than just a new language. ■

**At the age of six** when he began picking cotton in the fields of South Texas, Roberto Garza got a preview of the hard life that awaited him without a good education.

Now a member of the Angelo State University political science faculty, Garza was born in Comales, Mexico, near Rio Grande City on the Texas-Mexico border. He came to Texas as a toddler with his family to join a migratory farm workers’ caravan to California. But, when his father fell ill, the family was stranded in Kingsville with little money and few prospects. Garza and his three younger siblings then watched their parents struggle to make ends meet as laborers in their new surroundings.

“My parents paid a heavy price when they migrated to this country to create a better life for their kids,” he said. “They essentially decoupled themselves from their family and their whole social network, and became isolated.”

Garza soon joined his parents in the fields. After five grueling summers of picking cotton, he switched to delivering advertising circulars door-to-door. Next he worked at a drive-in movie theater, cooking in the snack bar and serving as a handyman. None of those jobs promised much of a future, though, and certainly were not what his parents envisioned for him when they immigrated to Texas.

“If I wanted a better life, education was the only route for me,” he said.

Realizing that, Garza joined a program at Kingsville High School called “Upward Bound,” which acquainted students from low-income backgrounds with the possibility of going to college. Then, a representative from a group called “FOCUS” came looking for students willing to go to college out of state.

Garza had planned to attend the local Texas A&I University, now Texas A&M-Kingsville, but the FOCUS visit and a full scholarship offer from the University of Denver changed his mind.

After starting at UD as a chemical engineering major, Garza soon tired of the chemistry and accompanying math classes. A friend suggested law school, so he switched his major to political science and set out on his new course.

“I was accepted at George Washington University and became a lawyer,” Garza said. “I practiced law in Corpus Christi as a prosecutor, but I wasn’t very successful given my low conviction numbers.”

Dissatisfied with the direction of his law career, Garza returned to school and earned a master’s degree in sociology and political science at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Mexico City. He followed that

with master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from Purdue University. Garza came to ASU in 1988 to teach in a new international studies master’s program created at the behest of Goodfellow Air Force Base.

“They needed a faculty member who could teach numerous courses in the sub-fields of political science,” Garza said.

While he now teaches U.S. government courses, comparative politics and international relations courses, Garza maintains a distinct interest in Latin American politics and serves on ASU’s E. James Holland-Roy A. Harrell Jr. Foreign Affairs Speakers Program committee.

“The friendship I developed with Roy Harrell, promoting the speakers program and getting to meet ambassadors and diplomats are some of my favorite things about working at ASU,” Garza said.

Another of his favorite things is ASU’s small classes, which allow him to truly engage with his students.

“I like to encounter students who appreciate your interaction, involvement and interest in them,” Garza said.

He often tells those students that their future can be anything they want it to be, and inspires them with the example of that six-year-old boy dragging a cotton sack in South Texas. ■





Mary Wilson

# From Yankee to Texan

**When Mary Wilson's family** moved from Chicago to Del Rio, the culture shock was intense for the 16-year-old.

All her life, Wilson's parents had worked hard to pay to send her to a private Catholic school. The student body had been diverse – so much so that the concept of being singled out because of ethnicity was foreign to her.

"It wasn't until I got to Texas that I realized I was Hispanic," Wilson said. "Before that, it wasn't something I focused on."

Unfortunately, the other Hispanic students in Del Rio did focus on her for one simple fact: she was not a Texan. They saw her as a Mexican Yankee because she did not speak their Spanish slang. Then she met a classmate, Verna Dawson, who helped her understand and cope.

"If it weren't for Verna, I would have moved back to Chicago as soon as I finished school," Wilson said.

Thankfully, the Lone Star State has grown on her since then. Now an ASU police officer, Wilson is one of the most visible members of the campus community. She can be found answering reports of suspicious activity, directing traffic after fender

benders and providing security during basketball games, among other duties.

But, the road to her current success was not an easy one. When she graduated from high school, Wilson had to put college plans on hold because her father had been injured and her family, which included her younger sister, needed her to get a job.

After a few years working in a shoe factory, Wilson became a Val Verde County jailer and launched her career in law enforcement. Three years later, the sheriff approached her about becoming a deputy. At the time, he had no female deputies, but he had to ask Wilson twice before she accepted.

"I was afraid I wouldn't be able to handle the school," Wilson said, "but the sheriff had full confidence in me. I ended up passing everything."

Wilson's job as a deputy included stints as a juvenile investigator, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) instructor and several security officer positions. It also introduced her to her now-former husband, who was a city police officer.

The relationship was hard for Wilson's parents because her husband was Caucasian, but they gave the couple their blessing any-

way. Wilson's parents are close to her heart because of all the important life skills they have shared with her. Her father taught her home improvement techniques that have enabled her to be more independent, and her mother honed her social skills that have helped many times throughout her career. The one area where they clashed was their ideas about traditional family roles, like women being responsible for all household chores.

"I would tell my mom, 'I can't be like you,'" Wilson said. "My family knew I was hard-headed and stubborn from a young age."

When Wilson and her husband divorced, the break was so amicable that when he joined the ASU Police Department, he told her about other openings. She joined the department in October of 2007.

Wilson loves the friendly campus environment and the variety in her daily work. The people on campus are what make a difference for Wilson because she considers them like family, with everyone pitching in and helping out when needed. She also appreciates that the university is racially blended.

"Everybody is so different, it's not cookie-cutter," Wilson said. "It reminds me of Chicago." ■

## A Different Perspective

**Though a relative newcomer** to Texas, Adriana Balcorta is an unflagging supporter of the Lone Star State's new generation of Hispanic college students.

Born and raised in Mexico, Balcorta first came to Angelo State as an exchange student from Tecnológico de Monterrey in Chihuahua. She then transferred to ASU in 2004 and earned both her bachelor's (2005) and master's (2009) degrees. One of the first things she realized was that, even this close to Mexico, the young Hispanic culture is very different.

"In Mexico, it is still more family oriented," Balcorta said. "For lunch, you go home to eat with your family. It was a big adjustment for me over here to see everyone so free. Once you finish high school, everyone kind of goes their own way and kids leave home. In Mexico, you don't leave home until you get married."

"Having college roommates who had already been living on their own for awhile was also very different for me," she added. "It was the first time I had ever been away from home."

Growing up in an upper-middle class family, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in the ASU Multicultural Center, she regularly visits with and counsels Hispanic students who are the first in their family to go to college. Through them, she experiences some of the major issues facing both the newer and older generations of Hispanics in Texas.

"It is a struggle for many parents," Balcorta said, "because their kids are the first generation to grow up in the U.S. They have

the fear of not speaking the language, but still want their kids to go to college. They are proud of where they are, but struggle with reconciling their old culture with the new culture their kids are experiencing. They often don't know when to push and when to pull back."

"I was lucky to live a different life, so I had to learn with them," she added. "I love it now when I see those students graduate, or they ask me for a reference for grad school. When proud parents tell me that I gave their son or daughter the help they needed, that is also very rewarding."

Another rewarding experience for Balcorta is seeing how Texas Hispanics are working to fit into the great melting pot of American society while still holding on to their Mexican heritage.

"I came to the U.S. and saw all these Hispanics flying their Mexican flags," Balcorta said. "That is not something that is done much in Mexico. You hardly ever see it over there. I think it is a way for many Hispanics to stay in touch with their homeland even though they live here now, by having a flag in their car or in their room."

"My parents came for a visit and noticed it right away," she added. "They said, 'We don't do that in Chihuahua.' Mexicans away from home express their patriotism more openly. Some of my friends even used to have big Mexican flags in their college dorm rooms here. Now that I am far from home, I understand them. When I hear the Mexican national anthem, it strikes me differently from when I was home and sang it every Monday in school." ■



Adriana Balcorta

Learn more about the Hispanic experiences of ASU faculty and staff by visiting the *ASU Magazine* website for features on Bursar **Martha Cox**, Jolene Varela, office coordinator for Facilities Management, and **Drs. Arnoldo De León** and **John Eusebio Klingemann** of the history faculty.

Visit [www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine) for their stories.



by Wes Bloomquist

# Room for Care

**Karli Maxey** entered the Angelo State athletic training room for the first time with fear, but continues going back – albeit more than she would like – feeling at ease.

“It’s not exciting to go into the athletic training room, but they do a great job about comforting you and reassuring you that you can get back out there and start playing again,” said the Rambelles soccer player who has dealt with injuries to her feet, knees and shoulder as well as a concussion in her three seasons at ASU. “You’re hurt, but you’re there with athletic trainers who care about you.”

Troy Hill has been in the position of head athletic trainer at ASU since 2003 and in charge of creating the positive athletic training environment for athletes such as Maxey. Previously, he had worked four years as an assistant trainer after two years of graduate experience and three as an undergraduate assistant. Overall, he estimates he has worked more than 600 ASU athletic events, but he cannot begin to guess how many practices he has attended in his various ASU roles since arriving on campus from his hometown of Bangs.

With more than 130 athletes visiting the Junell Center facilities daily and some 13,000 treatments administered a year, Hill is rarely without an opportunity to practice his craft. His staff consists of two other full-time athletic trainers, three graduate students and 25-30 student assistants. Athletic trainers attend every practice and every game – home and away – to help prevent injury and to take care of athletes if they are injured.

“We never want to be in a position where an athlete needs our help and we’re not there,” Hill said. “I always hope that I’m behind the scenes and the athletes never have to see us. But, we want them to know we are there and to feel comfortable with us when they need us.”

Athletic trainers interact with the teams in various ways, including shagging balls for the baseball and softball teams, running through soccer drills and shooting with the basketball teams. The athletic trainers ride the team buses, stay in the team hotels and work with the athletes before and after the games. Such camaraderie and trust creates an environment where athletic trainers, athletes and coaches believe in each other on a daily basis.

“Athletic trainers can make the difference between our players being available or not being able to return to the field quickly,” ASU head soccer coach Travis McCorkle said. “They are a vital part of our team and give us a sense of comfort knowing that we have such a knowledgeable and dedicated group.”

Athletic trainers are recognized by the American Medical Association as allied health professionals and are required to pass an exam to gain national board

certification. The National Athletic Trainers’ Association defines athletic training as encompassing the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations and disabilities. The ASU athletic training program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education for eight years.

Hill and his full-time staff members work with student assistants to provide care for athletes and develop them as future trainers.

While Hill is the program’s leader, he has developed a team around him that he and the Angelo State coaches trust. Drawing from his own experiences as a former undergraduate and graduate assistant, Hill understands the demands placed on the students employed in

Head athletic trainer Troy Hill works with Rambelles soccer player Karli Maxey.



Assistant trainer Jaclyn Wood stretches the hamstring of Rambelles sprinter Tiffany Allen.



Assistant trainer Andrea Freymiller tapes an ankle.

his program and emphasizes working with the athletic training assistants to make sure they are handling their school work and progressing as athletic trainers.

“I can’t be at every practice, so that’s why it’s so important that we have a great group here,” Hill said. “They are still in the process of developing their careers, so it’s interesting to see how they handle it when they’re out there by themselves and they are able to figure it out and help the athletes. We have graduated around 60 to 70 students in the past 10 years who have advanced in the profession.”

Jaclyn Wood and Andrea Freymiller are full-time assistants in the department. Wood, who came to ASU to work full time as an assistant athletic trainer in 2009 after earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from West Texas A&M, enjoys being a part of the programs she works with on a daily basis. She spent her fall with the volleyball team as it made its way to the NCAA Division II Tournament and saw the women’s basketball team through its Lone Star Conference Tournament appearance.

“Being a part of the atmosphere of competition on a daily basis and helping the

athletes perform at their best is my favorite part of the job,” Wood said. “You’re out there as an athletic trainer making a difference in their lives by helping them overcome an injury or working through pain. We are always there for them when they need to get taped or need ice, but we are also there to make sure that they know that we believe in them.”

Shannon Scott is one of the students who will be making a career in athletic training after graduating from ASU in May. Scott, a San Angelo native, earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from ASU while also working for Hill in the athletic training department. He worked with baseball and soccer along with numerous other assignments along the way. After graduation Scott plans to apply for athletic training positions at high schools.

“The hands-on experience I’ve gotten here has given me opportunities to understand the profession,” he said. “You are on the road a lot and have to be driven to work on your school assignments and still enjoy your life, but I feel confident that working here has prepared me for my job.”

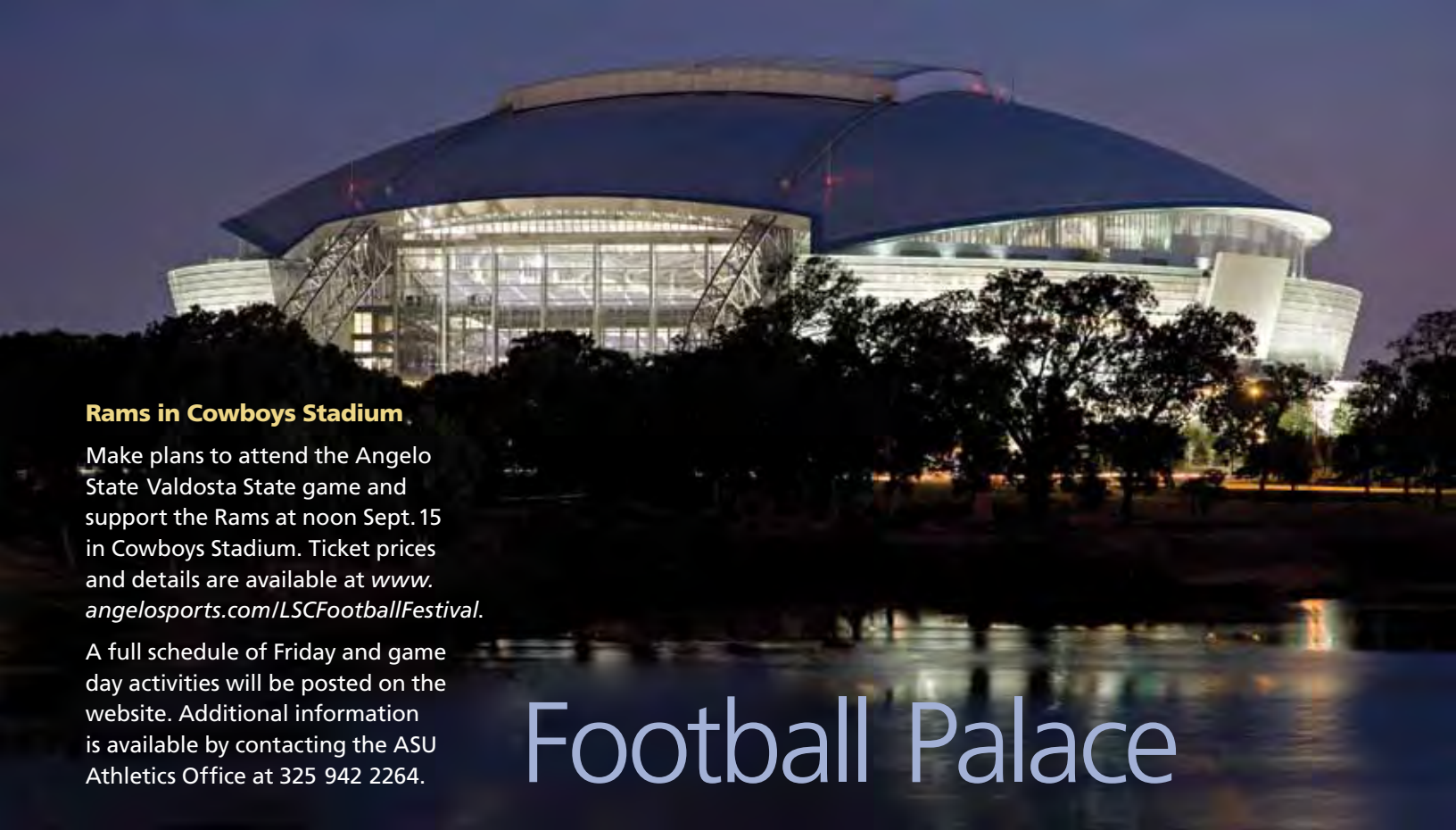
With grueling schedules, Angelo State athletes are constantly pushing their bodies to the limits during their seasons. Baseball and softball teams usually play more than 50 games a season. Basketball and volleyball teams play twice a week or more, and football’s physical demands are always a concern. Keeping the athletes safe and helping them recover from injuries remains the priority during their respective seasons.

“Some of the main challenges are coverage of events with the addition of sports, maintaining a balance between work and home life, and getting people to understand that athletic training is an allied health profession just like nursing and physical therapy,” Hill said.

The defining role of athletic trainers remains based in their therapeutic knowledge, but the intangibles of trust and friendship are what drive the Angelo State athletic trainers on a daily basis.

“There are relationships that are built because you’ve helped them when they were down and you got them back on the field,” Hill said. “That’s what this job is all about for me.” ■





**Rams in Cowboys Stadium**

Make plans to attend the Angelo State Valdosta State game and support the Rams at noon Sept. 15 in Cowboys Stadium. Ticket prices and details are available at [www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival](http://www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival).

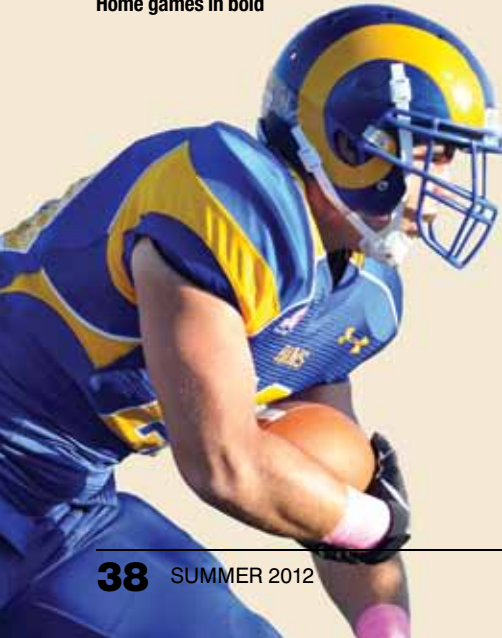
A full schedule of Friday and game day activities will be posted on the website. Additional information is available by contacting the ASU Athletics Office at 325 942 2264.

# Football Palace

## 2012 Rams Football

Date	Time (CST)	Opponent
9/1	2 p.m.	Western State
9/8	2 p.m.	Chadron State
9/15	noon	Valdosta State (Cowboys Stadium)
9/22	6 p.m.	Abilene Christian
9/29	3 p.m.	@ Eastern New Mexico
10/6	6 p.m.	West Texas A&M
10/13	TBA	@ Midwestern State
10/20	4 p.m.	Texas A&M-Commerce
10/27	TBA	@ Texas A&M-Kingsville
11/3	2 p.m.	Incarnate Word
11/10	TBA	@ Tarleton State

Home games in bold



**As participants** in the 2012 Lone Star Football Festival, the Angelo State Rams along with their accompanying fans will have the opportunity this September to take in a football game in the Taj Mahal of sports arenas, Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

At noon Saturday, Sept. 15, ASU will tangle with two-time NCAA Division II national champion Valdosta State from the Gulf South Conference on the field beneath the world's largest HD-quality video board. The game will kick off the second triple header of Lone Star Conference games that Friday and Saturday in the \$1.2 billion stadium.

Second-year ASU head football coach Will Wagner said, "I think it is a great opportunity for our kids to play in an NFL stadium. To play in that type of stadium and the atmosphere that the game brings along with the amount of kids we have from the Metroplex area is exciting."

"We need to get everybody involved and have as many people as we can at the game to make it a great experience," he said. "I am excited to get alumni back and get them involved in athletics, and I am excited for Ram football."

The Dallas-Fort Worth area is a major target for ASU enrollment growth, both for

students and student-athletes. The Metroplex exposure will allow prospects and their families from that region to see the Angelo State spirit and how various student organizations, including the Ram Marching Band, Air Force ROTC, the Greeks and others, work together to make a great event beyond the playing field.

A variety of activities, including a Friday evening reception and Saturday's game, are planned over the weekend for ASU alumni and fans. Tentative prices are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students for a day pass or \$35/\$15 for all six games over both days of the festival. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

Details, including ASU headquarters hotel, will be posted at [www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival](http://www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival) as soon as they are finalized.

Cowboys Stadium is the largest, most technologically advanced sports and entertainment venue in the world. Stadium features include seating for 80,000, expandable to 100,000, plus 300 luxury suites and club seating on multiple levels.

The Valdosta State game will be the third of the 11-game season for the Rams, who open at home Sept. 1 against Western State. ■

# The Right Stuff

**Her retirement** at the end of May means Angelo State University Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield will have free weekends for the first fall in more than three decades. For the university, her departure will mean the loss of an ASU pioneer in women's athletics.

Brasfield arrived on campus in the fall of 1978 from Seminole High School, where she had been head volleyball coach. Taking over ASU's volleyball program, Brasfield would retire from coaching 26 years later as one of the top five winningest active coaches in NCAA D-II with 647 wins. She also led the Rambelles to seven league titles, including four consecutive Lone Star Conference crowns from 1982-85, the 1982 title being ASU's first women's championship in an LSC sport. She was named the LSC Coach of the Year a league-record eight times.

"As a coach, of course, I'm proud of the competitive success of our volleyball teams," Brasfield said, "but I'm also proud that 100 percent of our players who participated in our volleyball program for four years earned degrees. I'm also very proud of what our former players have accomplished since graduation. There are many who have been extremely successful as coaches."

Brasfield was equally successful as an administrator, becoming women's athletic director in 1982 and overall athletic director in 2004. During her tenure, Brasfield expanded ASU programs to 13 intercollegiate sports, adding softball in 2002, baseball in 2005, women's golf in 2009 and women's indoor track and field in 2010. Under her administration, Rambelles teams earned ASU's first two NCAA national championships with titles in softball in 2004 and in outdoor track and field in 2010.

"As an administrator," Brasfield said, "I'm proud of the success our teams have enjoyed, but I'm also proud that the majority of our student-athletes are successful academically and proud that our coaches and student-athletes participate in community

activities to enhance the experience of children and young adults in San Angelo and the surrounding area."

Angelo State fans everywhere can take pride that, whatever the outcome on the field or the court, Brasfield continued a campus tradition of managing an athletic program that operated within the rules.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, "She has run our program with integrity and never lost sight of the fact that our goal was not just to produce winners on the field, but also winners in the classroom and in life."

Said Brasfield, "We have always tried to do what was right, not what was required or what was demanded, but what was right." ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

Kathleen Brasfield



# Sportsbriefs



Crystal Ruiz

## Final Lap

Crystal Ruiz saved her best for last, scoring a personal high 4,008 points and earning a bronze medal in the pentathlon at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in March.

Disappointed though she was in not winning the gold medal, Ruiz felt the greatest let-down in knowing she would never again wear the Angelo State uniform in competition.

"I take pride in wearing that uniform," Ruiz said. "I got to wear it and have had great success. I have All-America honors, national titles and had significant personal improvements, and I can't say enough about what Angelo State has done for me."

Likewise, Ruiz did a lot for the Rambelles as a key contributor in ASU's 2010 D-II National Championship in outdoor track and field, as a participant in the Pan American Games in October and as one of the most decorated student-athletes in ASU history.

The addition of indoor track and field to the Rambelles repertoire in 2011 gave the Bandera graduate student two extra years of eligibility in that sport. This year, she automatically qualified for the NCAA D-II Indoor Championships in the pentathlon and earned an at-large bid in the 400-meters and high jump.

Her overall performance earned Ruiz recognition as South Central Region Track Athlete of the Year from the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Her performance in the national meet brought Ruiz the seventh All-America honor of her career.

ASU track and field coach James Reid said, "We are very excited for what she was able to accomplish. Hitting the 4,000-point mark is huge and to get some of the personal best marks is a big deal. I think it was a very fitting capstone to what has been a great career at Angelo State."

Photo by Danny Meyer

## Young 'Belles

The Angelo State women's basketball team returned to the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the 11<sup>th</sup> time under head coach Sally Walling Brooks and broke a four-year drought by winning a quarterfinals game in the tourney.

Entering the postseason as a fifth seed, the 'Belles defeated fourth-seeded Cameron University, 61-57, rallying from a double-digit deficit in the second half. The 'Belles lost to Tarleton State, 70-51, in the LSC semifinals in Allen and finished the 2011-12 campaign 13-15 overall and 10-10 in the LSC, leaving Brooks eight wins shy of 400 for her career.

Paige Weishuhn, ASU's lone senior, displayed dominance and leadership on the court for a team that featured seven underclassmen, including five first-year players, on its active 10-member roster. The 6-foot-1 center tied a personal scoring high with 29 points in the 'Belles' 70-63 win over No. 1 LSC seed Tarleton State in ASU's home finale.

Weishuhn, who was named second-team All-LSC, finished as ASU's leading scorer with 12.8 points per game. She also grabbed 5.9 rebounds per contest. The Wall native ended her career in 13<sup>th</sup> place on ASU's all-time scoring list at 1,085 points. She stood third in career blocks with 137. Weishuhn is only the second player in program history with more than 1,000 points and 100 blocks. She is also the only player in school history with 30 or more rejections in every season of a four-year career.

Freshman Haylee Oliver also received post-season honors as LSC Co-Freshman of the Year. The San Saba native averaged 11.1 points per contest this season, the highest average for a 'Belles freshman since 2008.

## Defensive Stand

Despite the best defensive showing in almost two decades, the Rams basketball team finished 11-17 with a 4-14 LSC record under head coach Fred Rike.

The team held opponents to 68.7 points per game, which is the lowest since the 1982-83 season, but the Rams managed only 66.1 points of offense a game. The Rams did win nine of their 14 home games and two of three games at neutral sites.

Seniors LaDonn Huckaby and Joey Lenox ended their ASU careers. A versatile

player, Huckaby earned All-LSC Honorable Mention honors for the first time in his career. Lenox was a four-year senior known for his sharp skills.

## D-II Review

Angelo State University athletics will remain in NCAA Division II for the foreseeable future after a consultant's study last fall concluded that the time and resources are not right to pursue Division I status.

ASU initiated the discussion to assess the direction of Rams and Rambelles athletics. The Athletics Department brought in former NCAA president Cedric Dempsey to review ASU's current competitive and financial position and to assess the department's future.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, "As the landscape of intercollegiate athletics was rapidly changing, we feel like the process was a good exercise. We were able to identify both our strengths and some areas of improvement, and now have a better understanding of what it will take to better serve our student-athletes, and campus and area communities."

Dempsey interviewed university and athletics administrators, ASU coaches, Angelo State Athletic Foundation board members, San Angelo residents and representatives of the Southland Conference. Additionally, he evaluated financials and toured ASU facilities to gain more clarity into ASU's current position in athletics.

After the study, Rallo said budget was a primary reason that ASU and the Texas Tech University System determined that a move to Division I was impractical. ASU's athletic budget currently approaches \$4.5 million. By comparison, many Texas institutions in the Division I Southland Conference have operating budgets exceeding \$10 million. Since a Division I conference invite is required for a move, benchmarking data from the Southland Conference was the most practical comparison. The findings confirmed ASU's affiliation with the Lone Star Conference.

"We are committed to the Lone Star Conference and to making sure our student-athletes have a great Division II experience," said ASU Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield. ■



Photo by Kimberly Parker

Paige Weishuhn



# Athletic Hall of Honor

## 2012 INDUCTEES



Curry Dawson

Dual  
Threat

**Curry Dawson** felt humbled as he sat in his chair listening to friend and former teammate Colby Carthel introduce him as one of the newest members of the Angelo State University Athletics Hall of Honor.

“When you think about all the outstanding student-athletes who wore the blue and gold,” Dawson said, “to even be considered for, much less inducted into, the Hall of Honor is the ultimate recognition for any Ram.”

As Dawson walked across the stage, he realized his coaches and mentors had trod the very same path.

“I was fortunate to play for some of the greatest coaches of all time,” Dawson said. “Three of my former coaches are in the Hall of Honor, which illustrates the caliber of coaches I had during my time at Angelo State.”

Dawson entered the Hall of Honor in January as a two-sport athlete for his ac-

complishments from 1998-2001 in both track and field and football. He was a two-time Academic All-American and a five-time All-Lone Star Conference selection in the sports.

During his track and field career, Dawson won three NCAA Division II National Championships with discus titles in 2000 and 2001, and a shot put title in 2001. He still holds the top nine discus marks in ASU history. In 2009, he was inducted into the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II Hall of Fame

On the gridiron, Dawson was named the LSC Defensive Lineman of the Year and a second team All-American in 2000. The following year, he was honored as a National College Scholar Athlete by the National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame. Upon graduation, he received a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

**Mike Martin** remains the best football coach Pierce Holt ever had, including the ones who guided Holt during his All-Pro NFL career.

That is the tribute Holt gave his former college coach when he introduced Martin for induction to the ASU Athletics Hall of Honor in January.

An essential part of ASU’s football success for more than 30 years, Martin joined the coaching staff in 1972 and stayed through the 2004 season, spending much of that time as defensive coordinator. Throughout his tenure, his defenses were consistently ranked among the top in the Lone Star Conference and often among the best in NCAA Division II. He is the first assistant coach to join the Hall of Honor.

“I’m very humbled by the honor and glad that I was selected,” Martin said. “I’ve never been one for the limelight and have always

been behind the scenes, but I’m very appreciative that they chose me. I always coached as hard as I could. I still think I got more out of this than those who played for me.”

Martin joins three of his former defensive players – Holt, Clayton Weishuhn and Greg Stokes – in the Hall of Honor. He coached Rams defenses during the football program’s most successful period that included the 1978 NAIA National Championship, 18 straight winning seasons and multiple NCAA D-II playoff appearances.

“Angelo State has been a great atmosphere for me and my family,” Martin said. “It was always a super place to work. One of the reasons I chose to never leave was that I wanted to raise my kids in San Angelo. The people here have been great to us. It’s been 40 years now, and I think we’re pretty well sold on the place.”



Mike Martin

Consistent  
Excellence



Jacki Mays Earl

Timeless  
Memories

**Jacki Mays Earl** is the fastest female to ever wear a Rambelles track and field uniform, but she may argue her time at Angelo State went a little faster.

“Angelo State is like my family. I’ve met a lot of great people and developed great relationships,” Earl said. “The only problem was it all went by too fast. Four years had passed and it was time to leave, but I wasn’t ready to go.”

The Rambelle sprinter first stepped on campus in 1978 and became the first female to qualify for nationals. She left a trail of accolades throughout her career before becoming the Rambelles’ first national champion in the 200-meter dash at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women National Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 1982. For her accomplishments on the track, Earl was inducted into the 2012 Angelo State Athletic Hall of Honor.

“This induction means absolutely everything to me, and I’ve been waiting for this day to come,” Earl said. “Words can’t explain what it feels like to be selected, but it’s truly an honor.”

There have been a dozen Rambelles national champions since Earl, but the Stamford native still holds the top times in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Her record in the 100-meter dash was set in 1981 with a time of 11.26, and a year later she clocked the 200-meter dash at 23.08.

“I felt like I was opening doors for Angelo State track and kind of a pioneer of the sport,” Earl said. “Having seen where track and field has gone now, I’m very excited because I feel like I kind of jump-started the success.”

Although Earl’s time at Angelo State went too fast, her records seem to make time stand still.

Out of uncertainty and struggle, sometimes dreams are made.

Former Rams head basketball coach **Ed Messbarger** harbored numerous doubts while grappling with the decision to uproot his family, move from their longtime home and take over the ASU program in 1978.

“I had spent 15 years at St. Mary’s in San Antonio before I came up here,” he said. “It was a difficult move because we were moving from the big city to San Angelo.”

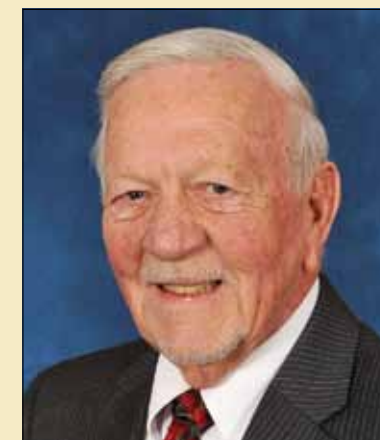
By the time he retired in 1998, though, Messbarger harbored no doubt that coming to ASU was the right call, a decision that earned him induction into ASU’s Athletics Hall of Honor.

During his 20 years at ASU, Messbarger racked up 268 wins and three Lone Star Conference titles. He was twice named LSC Coach of the Year, in 1984 and 1988. And, it was not just on the basketball court that he found success.

“We were totally amazed and appreciative of everything that happened at Angelo State,” he said. “Not only did the university accept my family and me, but the community accepted us, and I am really proud of that.”

ASU was the final stop of Messbarger’s illustrious coaching career that included 665 career victories. He retired with the third-most wins in NCAA Division II and the second-most coaching appearances at any collegiate level. He was inducted into the LSC Hall of Honor in 2006, and is a member of the St. Mary’s, Northwest Missouri State University, Big State Conference and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics halls of fame.

Upon his ASU induction, Messbarger said, “It means a lot. I’ve had a lot of these honors like this, but it means the people have appreciated what you’ve done. That makes it all worthwhile.”



Ed Messbarger

The  
Right Call



# 2012 Hall of Honor — continued



Jerry Vandergriff

Longtime  
Leader

A fixture in the Angelo State Athletic Department for more than three decades, **Jerry Vandergriff** now has a permanent place in the ASU Athletics Hall of Honor.

ASU's all-time winningest head football coach, Vandergriff compiled 143 wins and led his teams to two Lone Star Conference titles and four NCAA Division II playoff appearances from 1982-2004. He was also named LSC Coach of the Year three times, and in 2006 was selected to the LSC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team.

Before becoming head coach, Vandergriff played quarterback for San Angelo College, leading his team to the 1960 Hospitality Bowl in SAC's final football season before transitioning to become ASU. He was hired as an ASU assistant coach in 1971, and was co-offensive coordinator for the Rams team that won the 1978 NAIA National Championship.

"There's no way I would trade any part of it," Vandergriff said. "Coach Buddy Horn

recruited me out of the Texas panhandle to play here and I never looked back. I knew once I got here that I never wanted to leave. Being selected for the Hall of Honor is something that anyone who is a part of any athletic organization looks forward to. Having played here and coached here, it is a very special honor for me."

During his tenure as head coach, Vandergriff led ASU to the winningest record among all Texas universities competing in football during the 1980s. He also coached 39 All-Americans.

"When I went into the Hall of Honor, they came right along with me," Vandergriff said. "Without them, none of this would have ever happened."

In 2005, Vandergriff was recognized by the All-American Football Foundation for career accomplishments, and in 2008 was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

For someone who never played or coached a game for Angelo State University, **Shirley Morton** had an influence on university athletics far beyond her visibility, which was just fine with the low-profile administrator.

Nonetheless, what she did behind the scenes – ASU's first Title IX coordinator, ASU Athletic Council member from the time it was formed until her retirement in 2007, Lone Star Conference Secretary from 1984-94, cheerleader sponsor from 1975-88, and Fellowship of Christian Athlete's sponsor from 1986-2003 – earned her admission into ASU's Athletics Hall of Honor.

As Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield said at Morton's induction, she "has probably touched everyone in this room" and "nobody has spent more time in the background while making more of an impact on a university or an athletic program than Shirley Morton" during her four decades as an administrator.

Beyond her administrative role, Morton was a dedicated fan, who Brasfield said may have attended more athletic events than any person in the history of the institution, first as the new wife of Rams basketball player Chuck Morton and later as mother of Rambelles basketball star Tracy Morton Hastings, herself an ASU Hall of Honor inductee in 2010.

In accepting the honor, Morton said it was the people – especially the athletes – with whom she worked that made her career such a joy.

"Their dedication, hard work and skills have inspired, excited and entertained us," she said. "These people truly touched and enriched my life and made my 40 years fly by...I admit I am a fan, but isn't that what's great about sports? We can all be on the team."

Morton's own dedication, hard work and skills made her an invaluable contributor to the ASU team as well. ■



Shirley Morton

Sideline  
Star

# Back on Track

**Angelo State sophomore** José Flores finally has his life headed in the right direction.

The ASU Alumni Association's 2011 Future Alumni Scholarship is helping Flores work toward a communication degree and his dream of starting a nondenominational ministry in the Kerrville area with his wife, Dana, to minister to the homeless, substance abusers and others who need support.

"My wife is a social worker at Shannon Medical Center and loves to help anyone in need," Flores said, "and I love to reach out to homeless people and help equip them for life."

His connection to those oft-forgotten members of society stems from his own experience. While Flores was never actually homeless, he was certainly transient and often ill-equipped to handle life in Texas after spending his childhood in his native Torreon, Mexico. Those early struggles led to his own substance abuse problems and put his life on a rocky downhill slide.

Though Flores' father had lived in the U.S. since the early 1980s and worked in pecan orchards, the rest of his family only joined him in Houston in 1993. Armed with little English, Flores faltered in his new surroundings.

"When we moved to Houston," he said, "they just tossed us into school with a bilingual program where the teacher taught in English and Spanish. She would then stop teaching in Spanish until we got it. That was quite a shock."

Another shock awaited Flores when his family later moved to the Kerrville area. He was forced to speak English at Ingram Tom Moore High School, which had an ESL program, but with a teacher who did not speak Spanish. Drinking became his way of coping and led to stints in an alternative school and, ultimately, juvenile detention. At 18 years old, he had almost reached the end of his options.

"I thought I was going to die, and it scared me," Flores said. "One night, I went to my mom's bedroom and said I just wanted to talk to her. I really wanted to say goodbye be-

cause I couldn't stop drinking. I don't know how I beat it except to say it was God's grace."

"It was an instant change," he added. "People who knew me before say, 'You don't even look the same.' People meet my wife, Dana, and say, 'He's completely different.'"

After getting sober and graduating from high school, Flores took culinary arts and business classes in San Antonio while managing a restaurant 60 hours a week as he struggled to get his life on track.

"It was overwhelming," he said, "going to school full time and working 60 hours a week. It just wasn't happening."

His time as a restaurateur was followed by a year of missionary work as a translator in Oaxaca, Mexico. He returned to Texas to train horses on a ranch near Hunt, and then managed another stay in Mexico working for his grandfather. It was then that Flores finally decided to complete his education and made his way to ASU.

Now about halfway to his bachelor's degree, Flores is also training horses again, this time for the Mosaic equine therapy program. He is finally at peace and has found purpose in life as he works toward the day when he can help others who struggle as he did. ■



A Mosaic equine therapy program volunteer, José Flores helps Annie Hasson on horseback with assistance from volunteer Terry Wallace.

Photo by Danny Meyer



# Change for the Better

by Roy Ivey



Arnold  
Garcia Jr.

**A coin-filled mason jar** gave Arnold Garcia Jr. the leg up he needed to attend Angelo State University.

Now the editorial page editor for the *Austin American-Statesman*, Garcia still gets emotional recalling his mother, Bertha, carefully saving change from her lunch money in that jar while working as a machine operator at Ethicon in San Angelo. She gave it to Garcia as he was preparing for college.

“She said, ‘Here, buy some books,’” Garcia said. “It was about \$50, which back then, surprisingly enough, was the cost of a semester. That got me going.”

It also inspired Garcia to establish a scholarship at ASU as a symbol of gratitude to his parents. In addition to a traditional stipend, recipients of the Arnulfo and Bertha C. Garcia Scholarship also receive a mason jar filled with coins, just as Garcia did.

Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in Texas was often hard for Latinos, and Gar-

cia was no exception. He recalls the sting of rejection at a San Angelo swimming pool he had been to several times with Anglo friends. When he and a cousin tried to go by themselves, they were turned away.

“They said, ‘We don’t take Spanish boys,’ so we didn’t get in,” he said. “It’s hard to put into words just how it makes you feel when someone projects that onto a kid 11 or 12 years old. It made us feel like nothing. You burn with that combination of rage and humiliation. You never forget it.”

Those types of experiences spurred Garcia’s parents to push for his continued education. He fondly recalls his time as a history/government major at ASU, particularly classes with Drs. Walter Noelke and Dempsey Watkins.

“I still get a kick out of remembering how Dr. Noelke would lecture about Locke and Hobbs, and Dr. Watkins would lecture about the Mexican Revolution,” Garcia said. “They had a way of talking that helped you learn the material.”

“My mom and dad always assumed that I would go to college,” he added. “My mom went through the eighth grade and my dad went through the sixth grade, so they didn’t know anything about college. They just knew that it would make me a better life.”

The next step in that better life came when a friend told Garcia about an opening for a reporter at the *San Angelo Standard-Times*. He was interested despite his lack of journalism experience.

“My friend said, ‘Don’t worry, they’ll teach you,’” Garcia said. “They did teach me how to write in

newspaper style, and I did obituaries and covered cops. It was fun and a great time, like being in a movie.”

After a couple of years at the *Standard-Times*, Garcia got a reporter job at the *Austin American-Statesman*, where he covered the courthouse, state agencies, Texas prison system and school district before being promoted to assistant city editor, assignments editor, metro editor, political columnist and now editorial page editor. He has also served as both a juror and as the chair of a jury for the Pulitzer Prize, journalism’s most prestigious award.

Garcia’s two children have also found occupational success through education. His daughter, Dr. Jennifer Garcia Jetton, is on the faculty at the University of Iowa Medical School, and his son, Teodoro, is a U.S. Army first lieutenant. Garcia’s wife, Vida Marcet, is a retired teacher and education administrator.

Through his endowed ASU scholarship, Garcia gives students the same advantage he got from his mother and father. By providing a mason jar filled with change to each scholarship recipient, he honors the parents whose sacrifices made his success possible. ■



# Three-Star Success

by Jayna Phinney

**Angelo State University** alumnus Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr. has found great career success in the U.S. Air Force, but he has never lost sight of where he started.

Hawkins was promoted to lieutenant general in January, making him the highest-ranking graduate of Angelo State’s ROTC program, and is now commander of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Headquartered at Fort Meade, Md., DISA is a U.S. Department of Defense Combat Support Agency that includes 16,000 military personnel, federal civilians and contractor partners.

Helping pave the way for his success were lessons in leadership, discipline and academic achievement that Hawkins learned at ASU.

“ROTC was the foundational bedrock to my military training,” Hawkins said. “I had the opportunity to gain experience in the leadership laboratory, instead of having to learn through on-the-job training. I still made mistakes, but I also realize just how much experience I gained through my ROTC experience.”

A 1977 ASU graduate, Hawkins earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in computer science. In addition to being an ROTC cadet, he was a member of the Rams track and field teams that won Lone Star Conference titles in 1974, 1975 and 1977.

“I still wear my championship ring from 1974,” Hawkins said.

It was on the track where Hawkins also met someone who remains a key influence in his life today.

“Coach David Noble was, and still is, a role model for me for how a man of integrity should take care of and lead his family,” Hawkins said.

The coach even played a role in Hawkins’ proposal and marriage to his high school sweetheart, Maria Garcia. He decided after his freshman year at ASU that he wanted to start his life with Garcia.

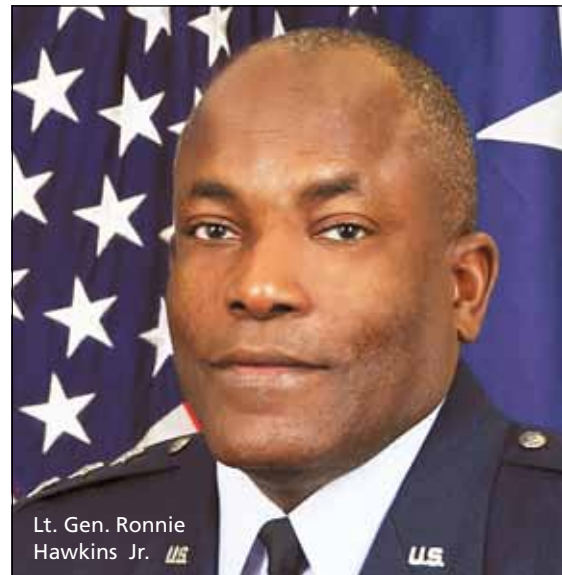
“Back then, you had to get permission from the coach, since I was on a track scholarship,” Hawkins said, “and I was more nervous asking Coach Noble than I was asking Maria – go figure!”

Another notable ASU figure in Hawkins’ life came from his classroom experiences.

“The academic rigor has helped me pay attention to detail and look at problems and situations with a critical perspective that has helped me make informed decisions while also considering the second- and third-order effect,” Hawkins said. “There’s a saying in the military that ‘the first report isn’t always accurate.’ Dr. (Fred) Homeyer demanded that we take a multi-dimensional approach to problem solving – that process still serves me well today.”

Several other significant events happened during Hawkins’ time at ASU. His first son, Ronnie Hawkins III, was born during his senior year. He earned the Commandant’s Award during ROTC Summer Training and, as a result of that recognition, received a full-ride ROTC scholarship. He was also selected as the ROTC corps commander as a senior.

After ASU, Hawkins began an Air Force career that has spanned more than three decades. He has completed assignments with Strategic Air Command, U.S. Air Force Academy, Air Combat Command, Headquarters Pacific Air Force, Headquarters Air Force and Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also served as the deputy chief of staff for communications and



Lt. Gen. Ronnie  
Hawkins Jr. U.S.

information systems for Gen. David Petraeus in Baghdad during the Surge Campaign.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Hawkins was named the ASU Alumni Association’s 2001 Distinguished ROTC Alumnus. When he was promoted to general in 2005, he held his ceremony at ASU because the university means so much to him.

As the first person in his family to graduate from college, Hawkins knows he is a role model for ASU students and alumni, and he is happy to share a few words of wisdom.

“Don’t settle for mediocrity,” Hawkins said. “It’s too easy to just get by with little to no effort expended. Write your goals down – your memory fades faster than ink.” ■



# CLASSnotes

Each issue of the *Angelo State University Magazine* highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit [www.angelostatealumni.com](http://www.angelostatealumni.com). Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

## 1968

The Tennessee Coalition for Open Government (TCOG) has named **Kent Flanagan** as the organization's executive director. TCOG represents multiple organizations and news media committed to government transparency.

Previously, Flanagan served as journalist-in-residence at Middle Tennessee State University after spending more than 20 years as bureau chief in Nashville for the Associated Press. He earned his bachelor's degree from ASU and subsequently worked at newspapers in San Angelo, San Antonio and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

## 1978

**T. Dean McInturff**, a certified financial planner and first vice president-investment officer for Wells Fargo in San Angelo, has been designated a member of the firm's Premier Advisors Program, a distinction reflecting his achievement of professional success through a consistent commitment to client service.

McInturff has been a financial advisor with Wells Fargo for 20 years. He earned his bachelor's degree from ASU and currently serves on the board of the ASU Alumni Association.

## 1983

**Sandy Sandquist** has been named senior director of global business risk strategies for Luminscent Inc., in Bloomington, Minn. He previously led global security at General Mills and, before that, at Pillsbury.

Sandquist received a bachelor's degree in government from ASU, then began his security career in the U.S. Air Force and as a San Angelo police officer.

**Victor Peña** has been named the executive director of Casa de Amigos in Midland. Peña holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from ASU.

**Hilda D. Kouvelis** has been appointed chief accounting officer for Red Mountain Resources Inc., a Dallas-based independent oil and gas company, which operates primarily in New Mexico and Texas.

Kouvelis was previously employed by Transatlantic Petroleum Ltd., Sky Petroleum Inc., Southern Star Energy Inc., Ascent Energy Inc., PetroFina S.A. and FINA Inc. A licensed certified public accountant, she holds a B.B.A. in accounting from ASU.

## 1986

**Charles Njemanze** has been named director of the San Angelo State Supported Living Center, where he began his 27-year tenure on the residential direct support staff in 1985. Since 2004, he has been the facility's assistant director of programs.

Njemanze has a B.B.A. and a M.S. in psychology, both from ASU.

## 1990

**Duane Hyde** has been named superintendent of schools for Highland ISD in Nolan County. He was previously Highland's secondary school principal for seven years.

Prior to that, he was a principal for Merkel ISD and for Blackwell CISD. He holds a Bachelor of Science from ASU.

## 1992

**Natalie (Matthews) Montalvo**, who has an ASU degree in special education with teaching specialization in both elementary and special education, has been named director of the Brenham State Supported Living Center.

**Lt. Col. Jimmy Humphrey** has been appointed assistant dean of campus life and director of veterans services at Lipscomb University. He served 22 years in the U.S. Army and Air Force, having retired from active duty last year as the deputy of the Manpower and Plans Division, U.S. Central Command, at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla.

Humphrey received his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from ASU. He also holds a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's degree in military art and science from Air University–Air Command Staff College.

## 1993

**Amy Jacobs** has been named superintendent of the Coahoma ISD, becoming Howard County's first female public school superintendent. A Monahans native, Jacobs previously served as assistant superintendent of academic programs at Marble Falls ISD.

Jacobs earned a bachelor's degree from ASU with a major in secondary English and a minor in secondary kinesiology. She received her master's degree in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1996 and completed her superintendent certification in 2010 from ASU. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in educational leadership at Texas Tech University.

## 1994

**Dr. Cynthia Opheim** has been named associate provost at Texas State University after 25 years on the faculty in San Marcos. As associate provost, she oversees the faculty records office, serves as faculty senate liaison and works on Texas State employee issues.

Opheim earned her bachelor's degree in political science from ASU, her master's degree from Texas Tech University in 1978 and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1984.

## 2000

**Jason Gossett** has joined the San Marcos CISD as the assistant superintendent of business and support services. Gossett previously worked as the director of business services for Frenship ISD and as accountant and purchasing coordinator for Wylie ISD. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from ASU.

## 2003

**Dr. Justin Louder** has been named assistant vice provost for eLearning at Texas Tech University and continues his previous responsibilities as program administrator for TTU's Ethics Center. In his new capacity, he will coordinate efforts of all TTU colleges considering new eLearning academic certificates and degrees.

Louder earned both his B.A. in communication and psychology in 2003 and his M.A. in communication in 2005 from ASU. He holds an Ed.D. from TTU.

## 2006

**Anthony Muñoz** has been named the new Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources in Schleicher County. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture from ASU.

Muñoz transferred to Schleicher County from Knox County, where he had served as AgriLife agent since 2009.

**Courtney (Collins) Mahaffey** has been named executive director of the San Angelo Symphony. She previously worked at HillCo Partners, an Austin consulting firm, as an event planner. She studied government and English at ASU.

## Ector County ISD

For one three-month period ending in February, the top three positions in Odessa's Ector County ISD were held by ASU alumni.

**Hector Mendez** was ECISD superintendent; **Tonya Tillman** served as assistant superintendent for business operations; and **Dr. H.T. Sanchez** handled duties as chief of staff.

Tillman, who graduated from ASU in 1993 with a B.B.A. in accounting, was hired for her position in 2006.

Mendez, Class of 1975 with a bachelor's degree in teacher education, was promoted to superintendent in 2008 after 29 years in ECISD as a teacher, principal, executive director and assistant superintendent.

In December, Mendez promoted Sanchez to chief of staff. Sanchez graduated from ASU in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in English. He joined the ECISD in 2010.

The ASU triumvirate ended in February when Tillman left to become the chief financial officer for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

## in memoriam

**Jonathon Kyle Webb**, 24, a senior communication major from Ozona, died Feb. 3 after a brief illness. He was recognized at ASU's spring commencement and awarded a posthumous bachelor's degree.

**Jeremy Jarratt**, 19, a freshman management major, died Feb. 14, on his family ranch near Edna in South Texas.

**Dr. Ralph R. Chase**, 89, Class of 1941, died March 16 in San Angelo. A San Angelo native and World War II Navy veteran of the Pacific theater, Chase had a career as a local pediatrician but an impact far beyond the medicine he practiced and the patients he treated. He was a humanitarian, an avid historian, a civic activist, advocate for women's rights and recognition, friend of the underprivileged, proponent of higher education and benefactor of Angelo State University.

Chase was instrumental in establishing the Roy E. Moon Distinguished Lectureship, which has brought 11 Nobel Prize winners to ASU since it was initiated in 1977. The Chamber of Commerce named him San Angelo's Citizen of the Year in 1989. His Texas medical colleagues in 1978 recognized him as Pediatrician of the Year.

Friends honored him in 2000 by making a major gift to name the regional archive on the second floor of the renovated Houston Harte University Center the "Dr. Ralph R. Chase West Texas Collection."

Upon his passing, the *San Angelo Standard-Times* memorialized him with an editorial that noted "few San Angeloans have been as deeply invested in, or had as much impact on, the community as Ralph Chase....Chase made San Angelo a more vibrant place just by the force of his grand spirit."



alumni association century club

as of March 9, 2012

**DIAMOND**  
**Bryan and Renee Heflin**, Monahans  
**Mickey and Renee Long**, Midland  
**Mark and Debbie Low**, Dallas  
**Mike Millegan**, Basking Ridge, N.J.  
**Milton Nickel**, Polson, Mt.  
**Louie and Amy Perez**, San Angelo  
**J. Milton and Terri Swift**, Montgomery

**PLATINUM**  
**Jeffrey and Deborah Brennan**,  
Mill Creek, Wash.  
**Dan and Terri Herrington**, Boerne  
**Randy and Emma Russell**,  
Round Hill, Va.  
**Frank Sturzl**, Lakeway

**GOLDEN**  
**Steve and Marsha Arvedson**, Houston  
**Kyle and Pam Box**, San Angelo  
**Larry Clark**, Richmond  
**Monti and Lisa Eady**, San Angelo  
**Richard and Debra Farr**, San Angelo  
**C.B. Franke**, San Angelo  
**Ronald and Carol Harrison**,  
San Angelo  
**Lt. Gen. Ronnie D. and**  
**Maria Hawkins**, Washington, D.C.  
**Steve and Lisa Holifield Jr.**, Midland  
**Takeo Ishimasa**, Eatontown, N.J.  
**Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand**,  
San Angelo  
**Allen and Mesha Millsap Jr.**,  
San Antonio  
**John Norman**, Houston  
**Lloyd and Sheri Norris**, San Angelo  
**Eric and Kimberly Peterson**,  
San Angelo  
**Jim and Marion Ratcliff**, Georgetown  
**Beth Stringer**, San Angelo  
**Steve and Susan Timms**, Humble

**SILVER**  
**Dr. Ross Alexander**, San Angelo  
**Maurice Archer and Barbara**  
**Alford-Archer**, Lamesa  
**Bob and Trudy Ballentine**, San Angelo  
**Clayton Boling**, San Angelo  
**Gary and Leslee Bowen**, San Angelo  
**Lane and Elaine Bowen**, Mathis  
**Dr. Russ and Frances Boyles**, Odessa

**Bo and Michelle Brannon**, Granbury  
**David and Rebecca Bray**, San Angelo  
**Jerry and Nidia Casillas**, Katy  
**William and Karen Coggins Jr.**,  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Oscar Corral**, McAllen  
**Curry Dawson**, Canton  
**Alex and Kay Decuir**, San Angelo  
**Troy and Lisa Deubler**, Irving  
**Norman and Linda Dierschke**,  
San Angelo

**Van and Angela Echols**, Lubbock  
**Brad and Mercyla Fly**, San Angelo  
**Dean and Janice Fox**, Port O'Connor  
**Wayne T. Franke**, Austin  
**Kevin and Rita Gamache**,  
College Station  
**Jim and Dana Glossbrenner**,  
San Angelo  
**Marc and Karissa Gonzales**,  
Washington, D.C.  
**Wes and Laren Green**, San Angelo  
**Charles and Donna Hall**, Bangs  
**Courtney Hargis**, Kerrville  
**David and Jo Nell Harlow**, San Angelo  
**Grady Harlow**, San Angelo  
**Joey and Lezlye Henderson Jr.**,  
Christoval  
**David and Carol Herreman**, Lewisville  
**Ferd and Cindy Hoefs**, San Angelo  
**Joe and Jenny Hoelle**, San Angelo  
**Virginia Hunt-Edmiston**, Murphy  
**Col. (Ret) Joe Hurst**, Boerne  
**Jim and Dorothy Kramer**,  
Shavano Park  
**Dale Land**, Midland  
**Lorenzo and Leslie Lasater**,  
San Angelo

**Lanny and Joni Layman**, San Angelo  
**Dr. Justin Louder**, Lubbock  
**Dr. W. Bonham and Marcille**  
**Magness**, Houston  
**Dr. Brian and Patti May**, San Angelo  
**Jeff and Amy McCormick**, San Angelo  
**James and Maureen Meador**,  
Christoval  
**Mike and Brenda Morris**, San Angelo  
**Charles and Shirley Morton**,  
San Angelo  
**Carrol Nokes**, Arlington  
**Greg Ochs**, Dallas  
**LeRoy Olsak**, San Angelo  
**Enadi Parmer**, San Angelo

**Dean Parnell**, San Antonio  
**Louis and Kay Parras**, San Angelo  
**Billie Phinney**, Mereta  
**John and Debbie Reed**, Lubbock  
**Bradley and Alison Romike**,  
Spring Branch  
**Oron and Dorothy Schuch**, San Angelo  
**Cynthia Seger**, Fort Worth  
**Jacqueline Shannon**, San Angelo  
**George and Evelyn Strebeck**,  
San Angelo

**Kenny and Beth Sumrall**, Katy  
**James Truelove**, Richardson  
**Mike Vallandingham**, Austin  
**Jerry and RoseAnn Vandergriff**,  
San Angelo  
**Mike Varnadore**, San Angelo  
**Johnell Vincent**, San Angelo  
**James Waterbury**, Madison, Wis.  
**Brian and Doxie Watson**, Midland  
**Sue and Richard Way**, San Angelo  
**Marc and Karissa Willhite**,  
Washington, D.C.  
**Dr. Noel and Jacqueline Williams**,  
Franklin, Ky.  
**Dr. Kelly and Lesa Wilson**, San Angelo  
**Rodney and Betty Winn**, San Angelo  
**Nelson and Elizabeth Word**,  
San Angelo

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**Pat Barton**, San Angelo  
**Dianna Cain**, San Angelo  
**Jorge Chavez**, San Angelo  
**John and Hilary Choate**, San Angelo  
**Roger Collins**, San Angelo  
**Cayce Cowan**, San Angelo  
**Patrick Dunagan**, San Angelo  
**Edgar Dunn**, San Angelo  
**Marco Escobar**, San Angelo  
**Jody and Corina Fauley**, San Angelo  
**Angelo and Becca Flores**, Christoval  
**Doran Gaston**, San Angelo  
**Yantis and Sheryl Green**, San Angelo  
**Sara Halfmann**, San Angelo  
**Aaron Hargett**, San Angelo  
**David Heath**, San Angelo  
**Mark and Selina Jackson**, San Angelo  
**David Jacobo**, San Angelo  
**Stephen Keating**, San Angelo  
**Pamela Lee**, San Angelo  
**Mario Luna**, San Angelo  
**Lori Manship**, San Angelo  
**Scott and Sueann Martin**, San Angelo  
**Fernando Martinez**, San Angelo  
**Dr. John and Valerie Matthews**,  
San Angelo  
**Michael McCammon**, San Angelo  
**Amy Morgan**, San Angelo  
**Phil and Susan Neighbors**, San Angelo  
**Linda Norris**, San Angelo  
**Linda Patrick**, Plano  
**Gerald Ratliff**, San Angelo  
**Edward Robles**, San Angelo  
**Michael Sage**, San Angelo  
**Robert Salas**, San Angelo  
**Ryon Sanders**, Eden  
**Garry and Cathy Sitz**, Midland

**Eric and Amy Smith**, San Angelo  
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**Dr. W. Truett Smith**, San Angelo  
**Gene and Dietra Tuttle**, Burleson  
**Matthew Waller**, San Angelo  
**Edward and Theresa Welch**,  
San Angelo  
**Ronnie and Pauline Willmann**,  
San Angelo  
**Lloyd Woodfin Sr.**, San Angelo

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**Bob Bailey**, Ballinger  
**Chris and Deborah Brenek**,  
San Angelo  
**Michael Bridges and Nancy Taylor**,  
San Angelo  
**Cornelius and Michelle Chinn**,  
San Angelo  
**Mark Cooper**, San Angelo  
**Col. John and Elaine Diggins III**,  
San Angelo  
**Gilbert and Sylvia Gallegos**,  
San Angelo  
**Ric and Pilar Henry**, San Angelo  
**Jim and Kim Jones**, San Angelo  
**Tyler Jones**, San Angelo  
**Audrey Hubbart**, San Angelo  
**Joseph and Audrey Medley**,  
San Angelo  
**Robert Mims**, San Angelo  
**Royce and Tana Pyssen**, San Angelo  
**Byron and Belinda Sawyer**,  
San Angelo

**Paul and Molly Swets**, San Angelo  
**Will and Brendy Welch**, San Angelo  
**Scott and D'Laine Westmoreland**,  
San Angelo  
**J. Mike and Ruth Wheeler**, San Angelo  
**Lloyd and Sheri Woodfin, Jr.**,  
San Angelo

**CENTURY CLUB**  
**Amanda Abanilla**, Euless  
**Donald and Jean Abell**, San Angelo  
**John and Sharon Alexander**,  
San Angelo  
**Glenn and Michelle Anderson**, Crane  
**Nita Archer**, San Angelo  
**William Archer**, San Angelo  
**M.V. and Lizbeth Armour**, Midland  
**Stratton and Jean Beesley Sr.**,  
San Angelo  
**Eugene Berger**, San Angelo  
**Erin Berthiaume**, Converse  
**Michael and Dr. Jaynell Bodine**,  
Sterling City  
**David Boswell**, Austin  
**Merl and Becky Brandon**, Miles  
**Kathleen Brasfield**, San Angelo  
**Brandon Bredemeyer**, Odessa  
**Tim and Bonnie Brewster**, Eden  
**Sarah Burnett**, Providence Village  
**Steve and Rosemary Calvert**,  
San Angelo  
**Van Carson**, San Angelo  
**Glen and Marcie Carter**, Midland  
**Steve and Kay Castle**, Midland

**Mark and Karen Clark**, San Angelo  
**Kevin and Lacie Corzine**, San Angelo  
**Donald and Pat Cox**, San Angelo  
**Kim Cox**, San Angelo  
**X B and Melba Cox**, San Angelo  
**Jerry Curry**, San Angelo  
**Dwain and Darla Custer**, San Angelo  
**Darryl and Robyn DeSeve**,  
Manassas,Va.  
**Marvin and Janis Dierschke**,  
San Angelo

**D'Ann Dodson**, Euless  
**Russell and Linda Dressen**, Abilene  
**Danny and Janell Eckert**, San Angelo  
**Sonja England**, Midland  
**Becky Fitch**, Flower Mound  
**Mark Fraley**, San Antonio  
**Kara Garlitz**, Eldorado  
**Chancey Garza**, Grand Junction, Colo.  
**Susan Golden**, Roswell, N.M.  
**Scott and Maricela Gray**, San Antonio  
**Gary and Frances E. Grogan**,  
San Angelo  
**Ramiro Guzman**, Del Rio  
**Charlie Hall**, Georgetown  
**Dan and Anne Hamilton**, San Angelo  
**George and Gayle Hamilton**, Devine  
**Jeff and Mindy Hamilton**, Lubbock  
**Shawn Hancock**, Irving  
**Dr. Pat Hanford**, Lubbock  
**Todd Harper**, Cibolo  
**Edgar Harris**, San Angelo  
**David and Katie Harrison**, San Angelo  
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**Carlynn Hicks**, Boerne  
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**Shirley Hodges**, Snyder  
**Tod Hoelscher**, Ballinger  
**Jeffrey and Dianne Holbrook**,  
Universal City  
**Dr. E. James and Bobbie Holland**,  
San Angelo  
**Roy Ivey and Dr. Sarah Logan**,  
San Angelo  
**Joanne Jones**, Lubbock  
**Kathryn Kelly**, Austin  
**Dr. LeeRoy and Betty Kiesling**,  
San Angelo  
**Kent and Nevie Lacy**, San Angelo  
**Jerry Lee**, Bedford  
**Deb Lewis**, San Antonio  
**Valerie Lopez**, Uvalde  
**Dr. David and Judy Loyd Jr.**,  
San Angelo

**Jane Lunn**, Sandia Park, N.M.  
**Glenda Maddox**, Tennyson  
**Gary and Gretchen Massingill**,  
Plainview  
**Harold May**, Spur  
**Jerry and Sandra Mayo**, Palestine  
**Dr. Mack and Dixie McCoulskey**,  
San Angelo  
**Tommy McCulloch, Jr.**, Wichita Falls  
**Dale and Ellen McDonald**, San Angelo  
**T. Dean and Lisa McInturff**, San Angelo  
**Dean and Suzette McIntyre**,  
San Angelo  
**Rick McKinney**, San Angelo  
**Roy andCarolynn McNelly**, Rowena

**Glenn and Leslie Mellinger**, Wolfforth  
**Jesus Mercado**, Alpine  
**Michael and Brooke Mitchell**, Houston  
**Jennifer Mobley**, San Angelo  
**Laura Montez**, San Angelo  
**Michele Moreno**, San Antonio  
**Diana Munoz**, San Angelo  
**Ewell Murphy Jr.**, Houston  
**Michael Keith Murray**, Midland  
**Ed R. Nalepka**, Midlothian  
**Edward Nalepka**, San Angelo  
**Karen Nelson**, Hewitt  
**Alvin and Patricia New**, San Angelo  
**Shelley Norton**, San Angelo  
**Darrell O'Neal**, Victoria  
**Richey and Martha Oliver**, San Angelo  
**Corey and Shauna Owens**, San Angelo  
**Meghan Pace**, San Angelo  
**Mark and Marsha Pape**, Fredericksburg  
**James and Blossom Parry**, San Angelo  
**Maj. Sean and Christie Partee**, Grapevine  
**Greg and Gina Pecina**, San Angelo

**Ryan and Shana Pelzel**, Katy  
**Paul and Melissa Perner**, Ozona  
**Fred Petmecky**, San Antonio  
**Byron and Sara Pfeifer**, Stockdale  
**Faron and Barbi Pfeiffer**, San Angelo  
**Clark Pfluger**, San Angelo  
**Michael and Lisa Phillips**, Spring  
**Debrah Powell**, San Angelo  
**Laurin and Sharon Prather**, San Angelo  
**Jeffrey and Tonya Rainey**, San Angelo  
**Dr. Joseph C. and Barbara Rallo**, San Angelo  
**C.A. and Shirley Roberson**, Cibolo  
**Dick and Mary Robertson**, San Angelo  
**Willie Ruiz**, San Angelo  
**Dr. Michael and Tara Salisbury**, San Angelo  
**David Samuelson**, Abilene  
**Dawn Sanders**, San Angelo  
**Bryan and Maria Scarlett**, San Angelo  
**Norm Schaule**, Canyon Lake  
**Doyle and Lynn Schniers**, San Angelo  
**Gordon and Jackie Schrank**, St. Cloud, Minn.  
**Gene Schweizer**, Robert Lee  
**Kenny Scudder**, Odessa  
**J. Keith and Debra Shahan**, San Saba  
**Steven Shelton Sr.**, League City  
**Lt. Col. Lisa Shoemaker**, Bellevue, Neb.  
**Steve and Linda Simmons**, Bedford  
**Blaine and Terri Smith**, San Angelo  
**Clarence Smith**, Arlington  
**Wesley and Carey Smithson**, Midland  
**Timothy and Lauren Stone**, Southlake  
**Perwira Suprobo**, Waco  
**Phillip and Sharon Templeton**, San Angelo  
**Bruce and Tammy Truesdale**, San Antonio  
**Lt. Col. Bobby and Deborah Vance**, San Antonio  
**Stephen and Susan Vanhoazer**, San Angelo  
**Richard and Mary Vaughan**, Lubbock  
**Mason Vaughan**, Eldorado  
**Dr. Tommy and LaJan Walter**, Jacksonville, Fla.  
**Mindy Warren**, Midland  
**Dr. Amanda Weitz-Marshall**, San Antonio  
**Brandon and Erin Whitford**, San Angelo  
**Dr. Whitney Whitworth**, Monticello, Ark.  
**Mary Wilkerson**, San Angelo  
**Elene Wilson**, San Angelo  
**Kimberly Woods**, Houston  
**Eric Zeitler**, Bulverde

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grant, which seeks to increase the number of students, especially Hispanic and low-income students, completing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics because of the importance of those fields to the nation’s prosperity and security. The grant was one of only 100 nationally going to colleges and universities with HSI designations.

Collaborating with Howard College on the STEM grant has the dual benefit of allowing ASU to apply for the larger grant and enabling the university to address some of the issues students face when transferring from Howard to Angelo State.

“A lot of our students start at Howard or other community colleges,” said Dr. Kit Price Blount, senior research scientist and STEM grant project director, “so transferring is a big issue. So, one position we will create is a HSI STEM transfer and articulation specialist, who will focus on creating STEM degree articulation agreements starting with Howard College, and then we will extend that model to other community colleges.”

A second component of the HSI-STEM grant funding is renovation of several science labs in ASU’s Vincent Nursing-Physical Science Building and Cavness Science Building, including smart classroom technology, modern microscopes, laptop computers and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy equipment.

“Howard College also has a significant piece of the grant for lab equipment for teaching both on its San Angelo campus and Big Spring campus,” Blount said. “That is important because faculty at Howard and ASU will be working together to align the courses that we have in common. College algebra would be an example of this along with the introductory chemistry and biology course sequences.”

“They will work to align the STEM courses that students take at Howard, but then come to ASU and don’t have the same

background as the students who took the courses here,” she added. “We need to have common objectives and learning outcomes. Basically, we need to agree on what our students need to know and be able to do at the end of each course.”

Aligning the courses will be aided by grant-funded faculty development opportunities for both ASU and Howard faculty. They will learn together how to best deliver courses both in the classroom and online, which could potentially lead to faculty from both schools teaching on their counterparts’ campuses.

“That is also a really important concept,” Blount said, “to work with Howard College as a partner rather than as a competitor.”

A steering committee oversees the implementation of both grants, and project directors Muñoz and Blount serve on the committee to coordinate their activities and to ensure that the grant resources are maximized.

“I’m part of her committee, she’s part of my steering committee,” Muñoz said. “We are really just trying to make sure everyone is doing the right thing, but what is going to help her grant is the year’s experience we’ve had with our initial HSI grant so we can share what is going to be required of them.”

In the end, though, the greatest help will be for the ASU students, regardless of ethnicity, who will be touched by the HSI grants, either in the support programs they utilize, the upgraded labs they take courses in or the success they have in staying in school and completing their degrees.

“Our results after the first full year of ASU’s initial HSI grant have been very good,” Muñoz said. “Based on where we were as a university from a budgetary standpoint and what we needed in resources to improve the opportunity for our students’ success, the timing of the HSI grants could not have been better.” ■





